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**SCRAP BOOK**

**RUTLAND FIRE  
DEPARTMENT**

**1919-1949**



# NEWS OF THE CITY.

## \$75,000 FIRE AT THE G. H. GRIMM PLANT

Blaze Started Near Oil Barrel and Spread Rapidly.

### MANY NARROW ESCAPES

Fire, which without doubt originated near the furnace, spreading to a barrel of oil in the basement, gutted the upper floor and attic of the G. H. Grimm company's plant on Pine street Saturday morning, damaging a large quantity of finished products, maple syrup and sugar making utensils, besides much raw material and valuable machinery and incidentally furnishing one of the most spectacular fires in years. The west end of the two and a half story wooden structure was actually in flames when the firemen from Station No. 1 arrived and almost immediately the whole upper section of the building was a roaring furnace.

All the employees were at their benches and numerous narrow escapes were recited after the flames were brought under control, four hours after the first alarm which was sent in at 8.30 o'clock. Some of the men foolishly returned for their coats and dinner pails and in one or two instances they were forced to escape from the heat and smoke by way of windows. In at least one instance the clothing worn by the employees was burned or scorched.

Chief of the Fire Department A. A. Courcelle was overcome by smoke and gases arising from the chemicals used in the working of tin and he was removed to his home on South Main street. He was almost entirely recovered yesterday, his lungs having cleared with the attention of physicians who were summoned to the fire.

The loss, which is estimated at approximately \$75,000, is covered by insurance and it was announced yesterday that the concern would make immediate plans for rebuilding the plant and an effort will be made to get out some of the finished goods which were only partially damaged at once.

#### Discovered by Employee.

The fire was first discovered by an employee by the name of Miller, who went into the basement for the purpose of drawing some oil. He called for assistance and an effort was made to extinguish the blaze with sheets of tin, but this was found to be futile and the men in the basement had just time to get out when the flames burst through into the upper floor.

The firemen and apparatus from Station No. 1 responded to a telephone alarm and a second alarm was sent in from box 53 immediately after the first apparatus arrived. Seven streams of water were used on the blaze, the streams from the hydrants being very weak and ineffective, caused by the low water pressure which has prevailed of the last several weeks. The new triple combination American-LaFrance truck was given its first tryout and the machine worked wonderfully. Three streams from

this hydrant were maintained for three hours at an average pressure of from 70 to 80 pounds and this could have been increased if more water had been available. The engine and pump worked without a skip.

At first the fire was confined to the west end of the building, but later the flames spread towards the east and into the office part of the building. An effort was made to get out some of the files and papers in the office and it was during this operation that Chief Courcelle was injured. A gas mask, which he was wearing slipped from his face while he was in the midst of the smoke-filled room and he was nearly overcome. The department has been in need of practical smoke masks for a long time.

#### Tin Roof Buckles Under Heat.

The heat was greatest in the attic of the building which is used for general storage. It was impossible to get a stream into this part of the building except from the bottom and this had little effect until the center portion caved into the second floor. The tin roof performed all sorts of stunts under the excessive heat. It puffed

out, buckled and then sunk rapidly when the streams of cold water struck the hot metal.

The fire occurring as it did in the morning, thousands were attracted to the scene and it was necessary to establish fire lines, this being in charge of the police who stretched ropes which kept the crowd out of the way of the firemen. Many photographs were taken during the day and one moving picture man was on the job and the picture will be shown at one of the theaters today.

The fire was finally brought under control at 1 o'clock, although water was poured into the building until 3 o'clock. The south belt cars were forced to suspend during the blaze.

# NEWS OF THE CITY.

## Fire Causes Damage of About \$2000

Fire during which the damage incurred approached the vicinity of \$2000, broke out yesterday afternoon about 2 o'clock at the home of N. D. Ostiguy on Elm street. The cause of the fire is not definitely known, but it is believed to have been caused by crossed electric wires.

The Rutland fire department were first notified by telephone and responded in quick time, but it looked at first as though the house would be totally destroyed, but an alarm was sounded from box 14 and the fire truck from Station 1, was quickly on the scene. Two of the lines of hose were strung from the hydrant at the corner of Elm and Williams street, and one line from the hydrant at Lincoln and Burnham avenue and the efficient work on the part of the firemen prevented considerable more damage.

A number of the furnishings of the house were removed. Mr. Ostiguy resides downstairs and the upper tenement is occupied by the family of Joseph Renaud. The losses incurred by both Mr. Renaud and Mr. Ostiguy are covered by insurance.

## EARLY MORNING FIRE DESTROYS THRALL BLOCK

Adjoining Buildings Gutted by Blaze Which Drives Women and Children to Street and Causes Fire Loss of \$75,000.

Many Tenants Lose Everything But Scant Clothing Worn in Hurried Escape.

A two-alarm fire which started a few minutes before 2 o'clock this morning destroyed the Thrall block at 11 and 13 Grove street and gutted the adjoining Franklin block, driving about 25 scantily clad persons into the street and entailing a property damage roughly estimated at upwards of \$75,000, much of which will probably be covered by insurance.

The flames were discovered in the Allen restaurant occupying the first floor of the Thrall building by Officer Burt Murphy who rang in an alarm from Box 43 at the corner of Edison and West streets and turned his attention to arousing the occupants of the upper stories of the buildings threatened.

#### Save Children.

On the second floor of the Thrall block, directly above the flames, were Miss Stella Hart and her sister's three children, for whom she was caring while their mother was in the hospital. The four persons were awakened by the smoke and when discovered by rescuers were taken across the street to the Salvation Army home. The family lost everything but the few clothes they were able to snatch as they were taken from the burning building.

Mrs. Gladys Bellevue, also a tenant on the second floor of the Thrall building, with Miss Madeline Steele, made their escape clad only in kimonos.

Mr. and Mrs. Laroe, and two-year-old daughter, Rita, in their night clothes and with only a coat thrown about them were gotten out of the Thrall block and hurried to the Salvation Army quarters.

#### Spectacular Rescue.

From the Thrall building one of the most spectacular rescues was made in getting out the family of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Alexander and five children, who barely made their exit before the flames were working into the room they occupied. Mrs. Olive Aldrich was rescued from a room on the same floor.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Graves, an elderly couple, nearly overcome by smoke, were carried out of the Franklin block a few minutes before the flames reached them.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Pfennig barely got out of the Franklin block before the flames reached their quarters. A. Barton of this city and Redfield Proctor of Fair Haven were occupants who had narrow escapes in getting out of the burning buildings.

#### Business Losers.

The business occupants of the Thrall block were the Allen restaurant, recently purchased by George R. Ladabouche, and the White Market, recently purchased by A. L. Bachand and Son. The latter concern also conducts a bakery business. The restaurant was totally wrecked and the Bachand establishment suffered about the same fate.

The business conducted on the first floor of the Franklin block was that of S. Fineberg, shoe dealer. The latter's place was drenched.

The block to the north of the Thrall building, owned by M. J. Foley, and occupied by him as a laundry, was damaged by water and smoke. A greater part of the laundry equipment was removed.

# NEWS OF THE CITY.

## FIREMEN FIGHT BLAZE IN BLACKSMITH SHOP

Flames Cause Considerable Damage to Terrill Plant on West Street.

For the second time inside of 40 hours the Rutland fire department was called out last night at 9:35 to fight fire with the mercury at 16 degrees below zero, the blaze being in the dry room on the second floor of the blacksmith shop of the S. Terrill estate on West street, near the corner of Wales.

For a few minutes the situation looked extremely serious owing to the fact that the shop stands but a few feet away from the big wheel-right establishment operated by the Terrill concern, and is also in one of the worst locations in the business section for a fire to get under headway owing to the proximity of many wooden structures.

Within five minutes from the time the alarm sounded the department had six streams of water on the blaze and within a few minutes the flames were under control.

#### Discovered By Thomas McMinn.

The blaze was discovered by Thomas McMinn, manager of the grocery department of the Combination Cash store, who notified Officer T. C. Canty and the latter sounded an alarm from box 43 at the corner of West and Edison streets. As there had not been any fire on the second floor of the building for some time previous to the discovery of the blaze, the theory is advanced that electric wires may have been the cause.

#### Building Erected 60 Years Ago.

The building, a two-story wooden structure, was built about 60 years ago. The loss will probably exceed \$2000. The concern carries insurance.

Appreciating the quick response and rapid work of the department, despite the fact that many of the men had been on duty continuously for over 30 hours in a 10 to 20 below zero temperature, W. S. Terrill, manager of the establishment, provided lunch for the firemen at station No. 1 after the "all out" signal was sounded.



## NEWS OF THE CITY

MAN'S LIFE SNUFFED  
OUT AS HE ENTERS  
BURNING BUILDING

Redfield Proctor of Fair Haven  
Disregards Warning and Is  
Lost Trying Save Effects.

## THRALL BLOCK BURNS

Most of the Tenants of the  
Grove Street Building Were  
Made Homeless by Fire.

Unheeding the warning of the firemen attendant upon the fire in the George C. Thrall block on Grove street early yesterday morning, Redfield Proctor of Fair Haven, entered the burning structure and, in consequence, lost his life, presumably from suffocation.

Nobody recalls having seen Proctor re-enter the building and it was not known that he had lost his life until around 5 o'clock, which was after the fire had been brought under control, when firemen who were working their way into the up-stairs kitchen through the dense smoke by means of a hose stumbled over his dead body.

The unfortunate man's body was lying on its back, the hands and legs being drawn up as if in agony and it is believed the man was overcome by smoke and fell. His hands, lower limbs and one side were badly burned.

Proctor was among the first to be informed of the fire and partially clad he made his way with the many other tenants of the block into the street. Later he made a trip into the building, but was forced out by the smoke and heat. His return into the building was seen by firemen who reported the fact to Chief John P. Reedy. Chief Reedy warned the man not to again make any attempt to get clothing or money out of the building and at the same time he instructed the firemen to remain outside. It then having been learned that all tenants were safe.

It is understood that Proctor, who was well known throughout this section of the state as a champion checker player, spoke about a sum of money which he had left behind. He, without being seen by the firemen, again started up the stairway and he had evidently gained the kitchen in the rear of the block when he was overcome. He was found between two windows which opened onto the alley in the rear and it is possible he realized his danger and was attempting to make for safety when unconsciousness overtook him.

An investigation of the cause of the fire will be started at once and it is understood, that Mayor James C. Dunn and Commissioner of Public Safety Fred C. Roberts have already requested the presence of Deputy Fire Marshal Preble who will arrive today. Chief Reedy is of the opinion that the fire started in the rear of Bachand's meat market, where his son conducts a bakery. Officer Murphy, who discovered the blaze, said he first saw it in the restaurant.

The estimated losses are, George Ladabouche, proprietor of restaurant, No. 15 Grove street, Thrall block, \$1500, with no insurance; A. L. Bashand & Son, meat market and bakery, Thrall block, \$2000, with about \$1000 insurance; S. Fineberg first floor, Franklin block, cellar badly drenched with water and some damage to stock, by smoke.

The laundry of M. J. Foley, located in his own block at 17 Grove street, also suffered to some degree by smoke and water. He was, however, able to conduct his business without much inconvenience.

The Thrall block was built about 15 years ago at an expense estimated at \$5000 dollars. It is practically ruined and to re-build a three story brick block would probably cost about \$50,000.

Although the owner of the burned block and the proprietors of the stores sustained heavy losses, the ones who really lost the most were the tenants. In most every instance everything they could call their own was lost. In addition to all this, they were made homeless and without funds with which to rehabilitate their homes.

Considerable praise is justly due Capt. and Mrs. Tripp for all they did in making the situation of the routed tenants as agreeable as possible. Shelter was given them all at the Salvation Army headquarters which is almost directly opposite the scene of the fire and garments and food furnished to those who were in need.

The captain announces that "a tag day" for the benefit of the people made homeless will be held in the city Saturday. Girls from the high school will visit all parts of the city to solicit funds for the cause.

Captain Tripp said it would take a large sum to give the people a start and he wished that any person who had any old furniture to spare would inform him and the Army officers would be glad to call for it.

Fire Damages House  
on Williams Street

Fire broke out yesterday afternoon about 1 o'clock in the roof of the dwelling house of G. H. Warren at 25 Williams street. The fire department was notified by telephone and was at the scene in quick time. An alarm was rung in from box 14, located at the corner of Church and Williams streets, to which the motor truck from Station 2 responded. A line of hose was used and after some diligent work, the fire was extinguished.

The damage by fire was mostly confined to the roof, but the house was considerably damaged by water and smoke, and the loss will probably be about \$400. While the cause of the fire is not definitely known, it is believed that it was caused by some electric wires. The house is owned by Thomas Cray of the Pittsford road and is partially covered by insurance.

## NEWS OF THE CITY.

NEW FIREMEN FIGHT  
FIRE IN ICE HOUSE

Quickly Extinguish Blaze in  
Building Owned by  
Rutland R. R.

Fire destroyed the roof and cupolas and partly gutted the sides of the big ice house owned by the Rutland railroad, and located on the company's property just north of the River street bridge, yesterday afternoon, a general alarm being sounded just before 4 o'clock both from the city alarm system and the railroad private alarm system. The damage will be approximately \$1500 and is covered by insurance.

The building was packed almost to the roof with ice and this was partly melted by the extreme heat, but the ice was not totally destroyed and will be re-packed at once and the building repaired.

## Fire Soon Under Control.

This was the first fire of any size which has occurred since the reorganization of the regular men of the department and it was handled with skill and without excitement. The men, although green at the business, went at the fire under orders, did what they were told, and as a result within 15 minutes after the alarm was sounded the blaze was under control, with three streams of water on the fire.

The location of the building, a wooden structure about 30 by 80 feet in dimensions, is such that it was hard for the firemen to string hose, but the streams were playing on the fire in a very few minutes after the first alarm.

## Caught From Engine Spark.

In all probability the fire caught from the spark of an engine entering the cupola of the building, two cupolas being located on the roof and opening on to the top of the ice beds, which were covered with hay, dry as tinder. A telephone alarm was sent in to Station No. 1, and the truck and firemen answered, but soon after the railroad alarm was sounded and then an alarm was turned in from Box 53.

Two streams were strung from the hydrant located under the River street bridge and these soon extinguished the fire in the interior, while another stream strung by Station No. 2 from the four way hydrant at the corner of Strongs avenue and Madison street furnished a little more water, but because of the length of the pipe line the pressure was very poor, hardly giving the firemen a chance to reach the roof from the ground.

## INSURANCE ADJUSTERS ARRIVE.

Work Begins Today on Appraising  
Bardwell Hotel Fire Damage.

Though not expected to reach the city until the last of the week, fire insurance adjusters arrived late yesterday and will probably begin the work today of appraising the loss on the Bardwell hotel which was burned early Sunday morning.

The continued cold weather of yesterday and last night has preserved the ice castle appearance of the interior of the hotel and yesterday many interior photographs were made of the office.

## NEWS OF THE CITY.

STRENUOUS DAYS FOR  
CITY'S FIRE LADDIES

Accidents and Low Temperatures Put Several Men  
Off Duty for Time.

The last few days have been strenuous ones for the members of the fire department and the beginning of the year found several of the fire laddies "up for repairs." The condition of D. E. Blanchard of Post street, who was injured at the Hotel Bardwell fire when he fell from the top of a ladder which slipped on an icy skylight, was serious yesterday, although not changed materially from the day before. At the fire in the Terrill shops Monday night First Assistant Engineer John P. Reedy was stricken with a chill and forced to leave the fire, but not until the blaze was well under control.

A series of small accidents, partially caused by the extreme cold weather which the firemen were forced to endure, has considerably lessened the fighting force of the department. Second Assistant Engineer A. A. Courcelle, who was threatened with a severe cold as a result of getting wet with the temperature at 20 below zero, was able to be at the station continually but in bad shape.

The only accident of any account was that at the Bardwell fire Sunday afternoon when Fireman Blanchard fell from the ladder. The physicians believe that his legs must have slipped through the rounds of the ladder and were thus broken in the fall. At the same fire Capt. Reedy was slightly injured when one hand was bruised and his back strained.

## Struck by Falling Hose.

When the firemen were hanging hose in the tower after the Bardwell fire one of the ice-coated lengths of hose broke the rope sustaining it and when it fell two call firemen, James Cocklin and Nelson A. Malmgren, were knocked senseless for a short time, being hit with the heavy mass of ice.

The tax on the hose supply of the department has been a severe one and yesterday over 2500 feet was strung in the tower drying as fast as the steam heated room could thaw it out, while nearly 1000 feet of hose used at the Terrill fire lay in the back yard at the station waiting for a place in the drying tower. There was enough hose, however, to fill the truck at Station No. 1, the wagon at Station No. 2 and the auxiliary wagon at Station No. 3. Some of the first hose strung in the tower will be ready to be rolled up today and the hose which froze after the fire Monday night will be given a place in the drying tower.

The firemen were recalled to the Terrill shop at 2:30 o'clock yesterday morning, fire having broken out again near one of the big chimneys leading from the blacksmith shops on the first floor. With the aid of chemicals and an hour's work, the men from Station No. 1 were able to subdue the fire without the aid of another stream.

George McGuirk of West street, a call fireman, has been seriously ill for the last few days and he has been removed to the hospital. Fireman Wilfred Courcelle, whose hip and back were severely injured in the Bardwell fire, when he slipped while holding hose, was able to return to Station No. 1 yesterday although suffering from his injuries.



# NEWS OF THE CITY.

## N. E. TABLE MFG. CO. SUFFERS \$2000 FIRE

Early Discovery of the Blaze  
Prevents Destruction of  
Entire Plant.

Quick response by the Rutland fire department saved the plant of the New England Table Manufacturing company on Baxter street from destruction by fire at 6.30 o'clock last evening. As it was, the west end of the building, which was used as a dry kiln, was badly scorched, and the damage to the building and its contents will approximate \$2000.

The fire was discovered by Robert Mack, a fireman at Station No. 1, who was returning from his home in Center Rutland by way of the track. Station 1 was communicated with by telephone, and a stream of hose was attached to the hydrant near the Lincoln Iron works.

### Station 2 Responds.

An alarm from Box 18, located at the corner of Baxter and State streets, was sounded and Station 2 responded. Two other streams were put on the building and the fire was soon extinguished. There was a considerable quantity of wood shavings in the west end of the building and although they were stacked against the walls and protected by heavy boards, they caught fire and caused a dense volume of smoke.

Chief John P. Reedy when asked the cause of the fire said that he believed it was an overheated stove pipe, although it was stated to him that there had been no fire in the large stove near where the blaze appeared, since 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The managers of the company are of the opinion that the fire was caused by a defective flue in the bottom of a large chimney located in that part of the building.

### Large Crowd Assembles.

Because of the location of the building, which is close to the Lincoln Iron works and the Tauber-Lipton Manufacturing company, a crowd of 400 to 500 people was on the scene within a few minutes after the sounding of the alarm. The building is owned by the estate of the late H. F. Noyes. The New England Table Manufacturing company has occupied its present quarters since July 1 and manufactures all kinds of high grade tables and chairs. Sanford Eldridge is president and S. J. McFarland is secretary and treasurer of the concern.

# NEWS OF THE CITY.

## Fire Damages the Manning Mfg. Plant

Quick response by motor trucks from Fire Stations No. 1 and No. 2 to an alarm rung in from Box 62, located at the corner of Cleveland and Park avenues, last evening about 7.20 o'clock, probably saved the Manning Manufacturing company plant from being seriously damaged by fire. As it was, the concern will probably suffer a loss of several hundred dollars.

The fire, according to the firemen, broke out near the furnace in the basement of the building and burned up through a partition to the wood shop on the Cleveland avenue side. Although quickly under control, the fire caused dense smoke to pour forth from the windows and doors of the building. A line of hose was strung from the hydrant at the corner of Cleveland and Park avenues. There was quite a little damage incurred by water and smoke.

The release was sounded about an hour after the alarm.

## WOMAN BADLY CUT IN AUTO COLLISION

Ford, Rushing Call Firemen  
to Fire, Strikes Hudson  
on Merchants Row.

Mrs. Carmine Marro of No. 61 Howe street was thrown from a Ford automobile, owned and driven by her husband, when it struck a Hudson car, belonging to a resident of Claremont, N. H., directly in front of the Brown & Garrett store on Merchants row early Saturday evening. Mrs. Marro was badly lacerated about the face by the broken glass in the windshield, and it was necessary to take several stitches in her face. She was taken to the office of Dr. J. J. Carroll, where her injuries were treated.

According to witnesses, the Marro car was going at a fast rate of speed. The driver failed to stop his machine at the corner of West street at the signal of Traffic Policeman Bert Murphy.

### Carrying Firemen to Fire.

In the car with him besides his wife were two call firemen, James Dumochel and Royal Rondeau. They were going to the fire on Jackson avenue, the alarm from Box 38 having just blown and Marro gives that as his reason for his speed. The Hudson car had been travelling northerly on Merchants row and was just about to turn around when the crash came, the Ford car ramming the axle of the Hudson machine. The Marro car was badly damaged.

The occupants of both cars were taken to the Police station where they were questioned by Chief of Police Hyland and City Grand Juror Dorsey.

### Further Hearing Today.

According to witnesses the Marro machine was on the left hand side of the road when the accident occurred. Officer Murphy said he believed the car was going 25 miles an hour when it passed him at the intersection of Merchants row and West street.

Because of the condition of Mrs. Marro, Marro and the others connected with the accident were permitted to go to their homes over Sunday. They agreed to report at City court this morning at 9:30 o'clock, when they will be further questioned.

# NEWS OF THE CITY

## FIRE DAMAGES SHOP AND DESTROYS AUTO

Overheated Oil Tank Cause of  
Blaze in Welding Works on  
West St.; Loss \$6000.

Fire, which originated in the explosion of an overheated tank of oil used in tempering steel, almost totally destroyed the building on West street used by the Rutland Spring and Welding company, shortly before noon yesterday. Except for the prompt and efficient work of the fire department and the timely ringing in of the alarm other structures in the vicinity would doubtless have been damaged as flames enveloped the building within a minute after the explosion.

An effort on the part of employees to move out the Moon automobile owned by George Ryan of this city nearly resulted in an accidental burning. The automobile was destroyed by the fire and the building was gutted.

The loss is estimated at between \$6000 and \$7000, partly covered by insurance. The loss on the Ryan automobile, which figured in an accident on the Creek road two weeks ago, is estimated at \$2500 and this is fully covered by insurance. The building is owned by Harry Holmes and is almost fully insured. The building, a story and a half wooden structure, was damaged to extent of about \$3000.

### Partially Insured.

The stock, tools and fixtures of the Rutland Spring and Welding company was estimated to be valued at \$6000 with only about 50 per cent insurance.

The explosion was heard by a number of persons in the vicinity at the time and an alarm was turned in from Box 43 at the corner of West and Edson streets, but within a minute after the explosion, the entire interior of the building was a mass of flames. Both the fire trucks answered and within a very short time had three streams on the blaze, with one or two other lines strung for the protection of other buildings should the fire spread.

The fact that the Miller Auto Sales company's garage, which adjoins the burned building was of concrete construction, is probably the one thing which stopped the fire going further. The blaze from the two wooden copolas on the Holmes building swept against the concrete walls of the garage without doing damage.

# NEWS OF THE CITY.

## Bakery Has 2 Fires Inside of 2 Hours

Apparently Due to Separate  
Causes; Total Damage  
About \$1000.

The Rutland fire department was called to the residence and bakery of N. P. Romano, 17 Meadow street, twice within two hours on Saturday. As a result of the fires, the building was damaged to the extent of about \$1000.

The cause of the second blaze is a mystery to local fire officials. The theory is that it was caused by the overheating of the baking oven, located in the rear of the building. The fire department answered a telephone call about 1.30 o'clock and the motor truck from station No. 1 responded and extinguished a chimney fire.

Shortly after 3 o'clock an alarm was rung in from Box 54, located at Meadow and School streets. Both motor trucks answered the alarm. They arrived in quick time and thus saved the building from total destruction as the fire had a pretty good start. The smoke could be seen from Merchants row and attracted much attention, several hundred people racing to the scene of the conflagration.

It was necessary to string two lines of hose, one from West and Meadow streets, the other from School and Forest streets, this last hydrant being several hundred feet distant. While smoke was coming from the entire upper part of the building, the fire appeared to be in the rear. It was under control in less than an hour.

An amusing stunt that made the crowd scatter in wild disorder was the breaking of the hose, causing the water to spurt forth in all directions. Local firemen say that the second fire was not an aftermath of the chimney blaze. They believe it was caused from the baking oven. The building was insured.

## Chimney Fire Causes Slight Smoke Damage in Verder Building

Fire trucks from Stations No. 1 and No. 2 were called by an alarm from Box 43 shortly after 6 o'clock Saturday morning for a chimney fire in the Verder block at the corner of Grove and West streets.

The stocks of the Murray Printing company on the second floor and the Riggs shoe repairing store on the ground floor and the household goods of a tenant on the second floor were slightly damaged by smoke.

The fire was caused by a defective chimney and started near the ground floor behind a partition next to the chimney. Quick work of the fire department in chopping through the walls to get at the fire probably prevented loss of several thousand dollars.

The building, which is constructed of wood, has been standing on the corner for many years. It was purchased about a year ago by the Marble Savings bank and, it is understood, a modern bank building is to be erected on the spot within a few years.



## NEWS OF THE CITY.

### FIRE LOSS \$15,000 IN HARDWARE BLAZE

Big Damage Through Smoke and Water to Billings & Davis' Stock.

Smoke and water, the result of an early morning fire in the Billings & Davis hardware store, 37 Center street, yesterday, did damage to the store and stock estimated at between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Nothing definite could be ascertained up to last night because of the condition of the interior of the store.

The fire was discovered shortly before 6 o'clock by employees of the D. A. Barker livery stable, Willow street, and shouts from them attracted Police Officer P. A. Mangan. He sent in an alarm from Box 43, Edson and West streets, and both trucks answered.

Streams of water were turned into the rear of the building where the blaze was confined and within a half hour the fire, which bid fair from the outset to be a dangerous one from a property standpoint, was under control.

#### Firemen Do Good Work.

Those who watched the work of the newly organized fire department were high in their praises of the work of the men who, within a few minutes from the sounding of the alarm, had three streams of water playing into the building, two from the basement and one on the roof, which had a tendency to protect the nearby wooden blocks.

The entire interior of the rear basement of the building was ablaze within a few seconds after the fire was discovered. This was caused by a series of small explosions, probably the cans and packages of paints, oils and greases stored there. The oils fed the flames which threw an intense heat into the upper floors of the store and blackened the windows and show cases and this, it is believed, will have a bad effect on the stock of goods.

The building, owned by Mrs. A. S. Cramton, Park avenue, is a two-story wooden building, built years ago. With the exception of the interior of the basement in the rear, it is damaged slightly. The building is insured.

#### Heavy Loss in Stock.

The stock, however, will probably be more than a half loss and the stock was estimated yesterday by Seymour Billings, senior partner, to be worth approximately \$30,000. This is covered by insurance, partly in companies represented by local agents and largely by a mutual company which makes a specialty of insuring hardware stores. The lower basement was devoted to the paints and oil stock and this is probably a total loss.

The hardware on the street floor will probably be seriously damaged by the smoke, some water and the moisture from the basement, although the store employees were at work at once in getting a fire started in the furnace and otherwise protecting the goods.

The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is believed to have started from defective wiring, most of the burned part of the building in the lower floor being centralized about the wires. It is understood that this wiring was rearranged, following the recommendations of the state fire marshal.

#### Confine Fire to Basement.

Precautions were successfully taken in guarding the spread of the fire into the Swann market which is located in the block just west.

The Billings & Davis store will be closed pending the action of the fire insurance adjusters, but will probably be opened for business within a few days.

Will L. Davis, the junior partner of the firm, left the city yesterday morning on the sleeper for Washington, where he is to represent Gov. P. W. Clement on some important state matters. Mr. Davis is a member of the state board of control. An unsuccessful effort was made to reach him in New York.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 11, 1922.

## NEWS OF CITY

### MYSTERIOUS FIRE BREAKS OUT IN TROMBETTA HOUSE

At 2 A. M. Flames Penetrate Roof and Threaten Destruction of Building.

#### TWO MEN SEEN LEAVING

Residence Supposed to Be Vacant Is Visited by Some Unknown Persons.

Fire which was discovered a few minutes before 2 o'clock this morning badly damaged the house at the corner of Cottage and West streets owned by Frank Trombetta and occupied by himself and family and the offices of P. R. Eaton, lumber dealer.

A minute or two before the flames were seen shooting from the roof of the wing to the east two men were seen making a hurried departure from the rear door, evidently carrying large parcels in their pockets.

The house was unoccupied for the night and when the firemen arrived the flames were breaking through the roof around a chimney and eating their way into the attic in the main part of the structure, a two-story and a half wooden affair.

The lower part of the main house was filled with smoke and it was apparent that the blaze originated near the kitchen which is situated on the Cottage street side of the building.

An investigation made by the police disclosed that the rear door leading into a shed was unlocked and it was from this door that a neighbor saw two men leaving the house with suspicious looking parcels. The tracks of the men led across the lot in front of the Christian Scientist church and were plainly visible in freshly fallen snow.

Within a few minutes after the sounding of an alarm from Box 43 at the corner of Edson and West streets the firemen had three lines of hose turning water into the house and the spread of the flames was halted within a few minutes, but not until after the blaze had broken through the roof on the main house.

## NEWS OF CITY

### ROBBERY COMMITTED AT SCENE OF FIRE

P. R. Eaton Loses \$30 From Trombetta House Unknown Persons Attempted to Burn.

That the fire which broke out Saturday morning about 2 o'clock in the residence of Frank Trombetta on West street was of incendiary origin is definitely settled by State's Attorney Charles E. Novak and Fire Marshal John P. Reedy and every effort will be used to bring the guilty parties to justice.

The motive for the attempt to burn the residence is somewhat of a puzzle, but one thing is certain, the crime of robbery was committed, as State's Attorney Novak has been notified that \$30 was taken from a drawer of a desk in the office of P. R. Eaton located on the ground floor.

As stated in Saturday's Herald, two men were seen to leave the rear door of the house just before the fire was discovered and they ran northward on Cottage street. They were observed by four or five local residents and they all maintain that the men appeared to be carrying something under their coats.

An investigation by the state's attorney, Deputy Sheriff D. A. Barker, Fire Marshal Reedy and Detective E. C. Brown of Boston, made Saturday morning, disclosed that some rugs had been soaked in turpentine, as had some papers and old rags. The county authorities also found where holes had been bored in the walls and filled with turpentine. They found further evidence that the fire had been started simultaneously in four or five different places of the house.

#### Authorities Find Cider.

There were indications that one or two person had been at the place a short time before for a "feed." Another somewhat curious circumstance is the fact that on the second floor where there were not many household utensils Chief Reedy found a gallon can partly filled with kerosene and a gallon bottle half full of cider.

In the cellar there were three barrels partly filled with cider. The fact that the building was not burned is undoubtedly due to the quick response of the local fire department.

Chief Reedy notified the state's attorney Saturday morning at 3 o'clock and, together with Deputy Barker, he went to the scene. The fire chief at 7 o'clock informed Fire Commissioner Joseph G. Brown of Montpelier and it was hoped to have Deputy Fire Marshal A. G. Preble come to Rutland Saturday but he is in Newport and will be unable to get here until tomorrow.

Mr. Trombetta and family are out of the city but it is understood they are to return some time this week. At midnight last night the authorities had uncorked no clues that would lead to the guilty persons.

#### Doctors As Detectives.

The fact that the Trombetta home had been entered by thieves was made known to the police by Dr. Bradford C. Powers, the x-ray specialist and Dr. L. A. Heidel. The two physicians saw two men emerge from the door in the wing of the house and dash up Cottage street. The police were notified but no trace of the men could be found, though it is not unlikely some development will come today.



# APRON FACTORY AND EVAPORATOR PLANT SWEEP BY FLAMES

Eight Houses Are Ignited by  
Embers From Fire in Manu-  
facturing District.

LOSS REACHES \$75,000

Building of Rutland Sash and  
Door Company Is Saved  
After Hard Fight.

Fanned by an icy west wind of gale proportions, carrying on its crest huge chunks of flaming wood and cloth, fire which started in the plants of the Rutland Apron company and the Vermont Evaporator company on Strong's avenue yesterday afternoon, left in its wake three smoldering ruins—three quarters of a mile apart—eight homes which felt the scorching hand of the fire god and loss to owners estimated at \$75,000.

For three hours the raging flames menaced the Rutland Sash and Door company, gave the owners of the Howe Scale works concern and made wicked sport of property owners for blocks.

First across the street—then in a big jump to South Main street and finally half way down Jackson avenue—sparks and cinders were hurled, disrupting peaceful households into pandemonium and calling into play every bit of the city's fire-fighting apparatus.

Above—all was bright and blue; below ineffectual men battled fruitfully with the devastating tongues of flame which sought to devour all while thousands looked on powerless to help.

For the first hour attention centered about the Strong's avenue plants which form the center of adjacent properties valued at millions.

Here the crowd gathered and here the firemen, with every ounce of water available, struggled, not only to extinguish the heaven-mountaining blaze already started but also to keep near-by building from becoming food for the flames.

Roofs of homes across the way caught and frantic men and women alternated the carrying out of treasured articles of furniture with straddling roof peaks and killing fire with broom and water.

Then the scene shifted to South Main street, a long block away, and every effort which could be spared was concentrated on a three-family house belonging to F. Oatway and smaller homes in the vicinity.

Another jump—and a barn a quarter of a mile distant on Jackson avenue was mounting in smoke with here and there, in the space between, clouds of wood smoke denoting the presence of scorched and seared dwellings.

Spread of Fire Rapid.

At neither the Strong's avenue nor the South Main street fire was there a chance of subduing the flames. Ten minutes after the sounding of the first alarm at the corner of Clover street and Strong's avenue the old school seat building, the home of the manufacturing plants, was swathed in flames. The Oatway house was burning furiously before enough equipment could be transferred to check the course of the fire.

The fire throws out of employment about 80 men and women, most of the latter employed in the apron factory and a number of expert mechanics employed in the evaporator company which had recently received a big shipment of tin which is highly valued, together with a stock of maple syrup of the season's first run.

Door Factory Threatened.

It looked for a time as though the plant of the Rutland Sash and Door company, which is located within 15 feet of the building destroyed, would be gutted, but, with the use of six streams from hydrants in the locality, and a stream from the private system owned by the Howe Scale plant, just across the tracks of the Rutland railroad, this building was saved although the rear end was at times afire from the great heat. The clapboards on the rear end of the building facing the burning structure were badly burned.

Employees Discover Blaze.

The fire was discovered just before 3 o'clock by two men who were employed by the Rutland Apron company inside the building, said to be washing windows. Soon after the fire started it was said one of the men had not escaped but later both were found on the outside. These men, E. L. Lessor of Forest street and his father, S. Lessor of Pine street, claimed they first heard fire crackling in the West of the first floor occupied by the evaporator company.

Only a short time before they had heard the switching engine of the Rutland railroad at work on the siding near the building and the theory was advanced that the locomotive set fire to the grass or rear end of the building. The furnace and wiring are in the east end of the structure.

The Lessors telephoned to the fire station as soon as the trucks arrived an alarm was turned in from box 33. At this time it was said the entire upper floor was afire and within a few minutes the roof caved in and the entire structure from basement to the attic was ablaze.

The engine on Truck No. 1 made the hitch at the corner of Clover street and 16<sup>th</sup> over an hour poured three streams with 140 pounds pressure into the building, which, with five other streams from nearby hydrants, saved the wooden structure of the door and sash company only a few feet distant.

There will, however, be considerable

loss in this building, from water damage to stock and machinery.

The playing of the water on the flaming mass sent the sparks and bigger pieces of burning material high into the air, these being snapped up by the strong west wind and blown onto the nearby buildings. The houses at 122, 124 and 126 Strong avenue, occupied by several families were the first to take fire from the burning sparks.

Bucket Brigades Help.

About 4 o'clock fire was discovered in the three-family house on South Main street owned by Mr. Oatway, and, before the firemen could get a line of hose connected and playing on it, the entire south end of this house occupied by the Baird, James McDonough, Arthur Courcelle and Herbert Moulton families, was in flames. The firemen saved the north end of this building which is valued at \$4000 but the remainder of the house were destroyed. The household furniture was badly damaged, being moved by the host of volunteers, being had started helping at the fire.

Bucket brigades were organized at practically every house between Strong avenue, Clover street and South Main street.

The roofs at the houses owned or occupied by F. F. McDonough, Miss Katherine McDonough, and A. A. Courcelle, another by George Noyes and a third owned by Mr. Meehan and occupied by Mr. Bacon and family, just opposite the Oatway house, were all afire at once.

The roofs, being of shingles, caught from the flying sparks, but these were extinguished with lines of garden hose, wet blankets, brooms pressed into service as a spanking device and by the old fashioned but useful bucket brigade.

At the same time the two fires on Jackson avenue were occupying the attention of other detachments of the fire department under the direction of Capt. Alfred Koltowski who was dispatched to the scene by Chief John P. Reedy, in charge of the main blaze.

The house on South Main street, owned and occupied by Miss Agnes Morris and John Morris, was afire on several occasions but the damage was confined to the roof.

Mayor James C. Dunn and Commissioner of Public Safety Fred C. Roberts had nothing but words of praise for the work of the firemen. It being generally conceded an excellent piece of fire fighting in stopping the many blazes and halt the big fire in the apron plant, thus saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in property in the immediate vicinity.

Fire Interrupts Traffic.

Traffic on the Rutland railroad over the Bellows Falls division and traffic on the south belt line of the local traction company was delayed until the sounding of the release at 6 o'clock.

It was estimated that over 5000 feet of hose was laid during the process of stopping the several fires, 11 of which were in progress at one time. Linemen from the Rutland Railway, Light and Power company were busy soon after the fire broke out disconnecting the heavy voltage wires which entered the buildings. As far as is known there were no accidents of any seriousness.

Erected in 1880.

The Chaffee building, where the main fire was, was erected in 1880 and was purchased in 1900 by George T. Chaffee and the late M. O. Stoddard from the late Mrs. Lucy B. Cramton. This building was badly damaged by fire about eight years ago. It is understood that there was about \$10,000 insurance on it.

A. Dick, manager of the Rutland Apron company, which is owned by I. Ginsburg & Brothers of New York, was unable to state last night the amount of the insurance carried by his concern. He said it was all carried through the New York office. He notified Mr. Ginsburg by telephone yesterday afternoon and was informed that the latter would arrive in Rutland this morning.

Mr. Dick stated that 80 girls were employed in the factory and about 75 machines operated. All of the machines, he said, have been destroyed. He stated further that while he did not know the exact amount on hand there was an exceptionally large stock of finished material in the factory. The concern manufactured dresses. His factory was located on the third floor. R. H. Moroney, treasurer and manager of the Vermont Evaporator company estimated the loss to his concern through machinery and manufactured products at about \$40,000 which he said was partly covered by insurance.

This concern was started about seven years ago and it manufactures evaporators, sap buckets, sap spouts and all kinds of utensils used in making maple products. The concern also had several thousand gallons of syrup stored in the building.

## GALE-TOSSED FIRE SEEKS TO EXPUNGE JACKSON AVENUE

Embers From Industrial Plant  
Blaze Burn a Barn and  
Menace Six Homes.

FIGHT FOR EXISTENCE

Lessening of Wind and Prompt  
Action Save Entire Sec-  
tion From Ruin.

Jackson avenue came within an ace of being wiped off the face of the city map yesterday afternoon when flying embers from the Rutland Apron company and the Vermont Evaporator company fire on Strong's avenue, ignited the roofs of a half a dozen houses.



## Blazing Coat Doesn't Disturb Jail Inmate

John Horan Narrowly Escapes  
Becoming Burnt Offering  
to Hooch God.

John J. Horan, who was before Judge Leonard F. Wing in City court Thursday morning on an intoxication charge, came near not facing any court on this planet. He set fire to an old overcoat which was pressed into service as a temporary mattress at the police station the night he was arrested and but for the timely discovery of the smudge he would have been scorched.

Horan said he did not want to have Boston take all the credit for presence of mind and when he heard about the Hub citizen who set fire to his overalls and then ragg in a fire alarm he wanted to go him one better.

When Horan was locked up he was searched, as is the custom at the police station, but he was allowed to have an old overcoat to throw over the steel spring couch furnished to persons who get "over the brink." It is probable that there were matches in the pocket of the coat and during the night the garment caught fire.

In one of his trips toward the jail Officer John H. Grimes thought he detected smoke and started an investigation, first however calling Fire Station No. 1 and informing the department of the presence of smoke.

Chief John P. Reedy, without any apparatus, answered the call and the blazing coat was dragged from the cell and out of doors, while Horan rolled over and asked why it was necessary to disturb him before time for breakfast. There was no damage.

## NEWS OF CITY

### F. R. PATCH FACTORY THREATENED BY FIRE

Midnight Blaze Fanned by  
Wind Damages Foundry Sev-  
eral Thousand Dollars.

Fire of unknown origin broke out about 12.10 o'clock this morning in the foundry of the F. R. Patch manufacturing company and badly burned the roof and walls of the building. The loss from fire, water and smoke will undoubtedly be several thousand dollars.

It was the quick active response of Chief John P. Reedy and his men that saved the building from possible total ruin and perhaps the loss of the entire Patch plant. A stiff wind was blowing at the time, which fanned the flames.

When the firemen arrived at the scene the building was all in flames and in less than 10 minutes three streams from nearby hydrants were on the fire which was confined to the foundry. It is probable that the machine shop, core room and assembling room will suffer some damage from smoke. Coke bins at the south end of the building were burned.

The fire was discovered by Fireman William Mangan as he was returning to Station 2 after having assisted in putting out a fire on Forest street. He rang in an alarm from box 51, located at the corner of Spruce and Franklin streets. The illumination of the sky could be seen for some distance and several hundred people were at the scene shortly after the arrival of the fire trucks.

The cause of the fire had not been determined at an early hour this morning. Chief Reedy said that the watchman told him that he made the rounds of the building at 11 o'clock and there were no signs of any fire at that time.

It was the second time the fire company had been called out within two hours. At 10.50 o'clock last night an alarm was rung in from box 61 at the corner of Convent avenue and Forest street. The fire was in three bales of felt in the barn at the rear of John Hopkins' house on Forest street. It is believed that this fire was caused by the dropping of lighted matches.

## NEWS OF CITY

### J. H. MONETTE'S SHOP DAMAGED BY FLAMES

Children and Matches Cause  
Property Damage and  
Endanger Lives.

Fire yesterday afternoon, believed to have been started by children playing with matches, partially destroyed the building at 10 Terrill street, owned by Joseph H. Monette and caused some damage to the garage owned by George E. Lassar of Mansfield place which backs up against the Monette building.

The loss on the Monette property is estimated at several hundred dollars, partially covered by insurance, while the Lassar covered by insurance, while main of burned shingles.

Besides the Monette blacksmith shop on the ground floor of the building in which the fire started, the families of John B. Noisieux and Mr. Gollagher live in the structure. There are several young children living in the house.

The fire had its inception on the back porch, upstairs, and trucks from stations 1 and 2, called by an alarm from box 32 at the corner of South Main and Center streets at 4:05 o'clock, arrived after the flames had obtained a secure hold on the entire roof of the building and had been communicated to the Lassar garage.

Four lines of hose were laid and the attention of the fire fighters centered around saving the Lassar garage and doing what they could with the Monette building which was as dry as tinder. In a remarkably short time the fire had been put under control and the surrounding buildings insured against burning.

Added water pressure was procured by the use of a motor pump which was attached to a hydrant at the corner of Terrill and East streets.

## MANNING PLANT WILL BE REBUILT AT ONCE

Fire at Dairy Goods Manufac-  
tory Will Not Throw 75  
Hands Out of Work.

The plant of the Manning Manufacturing company, makers of dairy and creamery apparatus, which was badly damaged by fire early yesterday morning, will be rebuilt at once. It is stated by the president, Edward Manning, and the 75 men on the concern's payroll will not be thrown out of employment. The flames were first discovered in a pile of shavings in the boiler room and spontaneous combustion is believed to have been the source of the trouble. The fire was located in the main building, a one-story brick structure at the corner of Baxter street and Cleveland avenue. Mr. Manning says the loss will be several thousand dollars. He will not be able to determine the approximate amount for several days.

As near as can be learned the fire was discovered about 5 o'clock and an attempt was made by employees, with the use of a stream of water from a nearby hydrant, to stop the blaze, which at this time was confined to the shaving pile in the rear of the furnaces. This being unsuccessful, an alarm was rung in from box 62, but the antics of the alarm system caused another delay. There was no watchman at the plant.

Fire Breaks Out Anew.  
By 7.30 o'clock it looked as though the fire was under control although there was considerable smoke and steam. In some manner, however, the fire worked its way over the oil storage room and into the shipping quarters and the dry kiln. Tongues of flame then shot high into the air accompanied by black smoke from the burning oil and dry shavings, of which there were tons. The latter part of the fire was the more spectacular.

The firemen remained at their posts on the roof until ordered down by Chief John P. Reedy and within a very few minutes the roof crashed in. In a short time the firemen again had the fire under control, the cellar being practically flooded from the six streams of water operating under high pressure.

Machinery Drops Into Basement.  
The main room, which runs along the Cleveland avenue end of the plant, is damaged by smoke, water and, in the central part, by fire, some of the floor caving in with the heavy machinery. The office is badly damaged with smoke, water and heat, while the store room and shipping department is totally destroyed as are the drying rooms, boilers and basement. Many electric motors are damaged.

On the floor of the main shop, a large butter making machine was ready for shipment and this, although not hurt by fire, was damaged to a considerable extent.

There was something of a mystery as to the flames getting beyond the fire wall, which surrounds the boiler, shavings pile and oil room, but it is thought probable they followed the big steam pipes which furnish heat for the dry kilns.

This is the third time the company has had a fire and the second time the fire was first found in the shavings pile in the rear of the furnace.

Chief Reedy received a slight cut on one hand, as did Capt. Edward Mabury of Station No. 2, but beyond this none of the firemen was hurt.

Water Pressure Good.  
The water pressure was excellent and Superintendent of Water Works Francis Tracy stated that the three hours of heavy drain on the water supply made no difference in the pressure throughout the mains, something out of the ordinary considering the extremely dry period.

## Fire Damages Garage of Darrell E. Martin

Flames Also Reach Automobile  
Stored in Building; Loss  
Estimated at \$1300.

A blaze in a private garage and a chimney fire called out the local fire department twice yesterday.

A chimney fire in the building at 15 1/2 Center street was extinguished without loss about 2.50 o'clock in the afternoon. The building is the property of Mrs. Mellina Miner.

Approximately \$1300 damage was caused from an overheated stove which started a fire in the private garage of Darrell E. Martin of Church street early yesterday morning. The blaze was discovered about 5.30 o'clock by Mrs. Leon S. Robillard and her husband notified the fire department.

With the use of 40 gallons of chemicals and one line of hose firemen soon put out the blaze, but not before it had damaged the inside of the building and Mr. Martin's automobile to a considerable extent.



## CITY'S HIGH SCHOOL DAMAGED BY FLAMES

Fire Discovered Near Boiler  
in Basement Just After  
Concert Is Over.

Rapid thinking by Oliver D. Ward and a quick response by the Rutland fire department probably saved the Rutland high school building from many thousands of dollars damage by fire which broke out about 10.50 o'clock last evening near the boiler under the hallway. Mr. Ward discovered the blaze, ran up stairs and telephoned the fire department, then he went back to the basement and, with the aid of some other persons, he put one of the emergency streams on the blaze which was crackling in the partitions. The fire truck soon arrived and an alarm from Box 32 soon attracted a crowd to the building. Two streams were put on the buildings, the flames having worked up through the partitions to the second floor. The fire was soon under control.

The schoolhouse will be damaged to the extent of several hundred dollars from fire, water and smoke. The cause of the blaze had not been definitely determined at midnight last night, but it is believed that some papers and other debris near the boiler played a part in its origination.

It was necessary to chop a small space in the floor of the main auditorium to get at the blaze. The fire was discovered just after the concert given by the Lotus Male quartet in the auditorium was completed. There was no panic.

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## CHILD DROPS LAMP AND FLAMES ENSUE

Fire Causes \$500 Damage at  
South Main Street House  
of Gratz Powers.

A kerosene lamp which is said to have fallen from the hand of a sleepy child as he stumbled upstairs to bed started a fire last night which might have proved disastrous were it not for quick work by firemen.

The blaze consumed part of the roof in the rear of the house at 202 South Main street and destroyed the back steps completely before it could be extinguished. The estimated damage to the house, owned by Gratz Powers of Clarendon, is about \$500.

The families of Harry L. Doty and Albert Decker, occupying the rear of the house were the chief sufferers in destruction of property by fire, smoke and water. Mr. Doty said last night that his loss was covered by insurance but it could not be ascertained whether Mr. Decker was similarly protected.

Both trucks from station 2 answered a still alarm transmitted by telephone at about 7:30 o'clock. Shortly after they arrived on the scene, the alarm at box 31, at the corner of Strong's avenue and South Main street was pulled by Motorcycle Patrolman Quincy M. Baker on the order of Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski. The truck from station 1 responded to this alarm.

Streams of water from the hose of chemical apparatus soon brought the blaze under control and less than an hour after the still alarm was received, the release was sounded.

## PROBE CAUSE OF FIRE IN PAINT SHOP

Blaze in Terrill Street Building  
During Gale Menaces  
Wooden Structures.

An investigation will be conducted today in the cause of a fire Saturday night in a two-story frame structure at 9 Terrill street, the property of the Carroll L. Stewart estate, which menaced wooden buildings nearby. The exact amount of damage by fire, smoke and water also will be sought in the investigation.

In a drenching downpour and buffeted by a veritable gale, firemen, manning all three trucks of the department, fought the fire with two lines of hose, assisted by chemicals and confined the blaze to the bedroom in the second floor in the apartments of Mrs. Adice Lull, where the flames apparently started.

A newly painted touring car in the first floor of the building, used by Richard Rowe as a paintshop, escaped unscathed without being removed from the building.

Truck 2 from Station 2 and Truck 3, the auxiliary from Station 1, responded to a still alarm transmitted by telephone about 8.35 o'clock. Soon after they had arrived and the firemen had sized up the situation, the alarm at Box 23, East and Terrill streets, was pulled to summon the remaining truck from Station 1.

## FIGHT FIRE AMONG FLAMING COFFINS

Several Caskets Burn in Early  
Morning Blaze at Clifford  
Brothers' Store.

Two fires which started practically at the same time about 7:30 o'clock this morning drove firemen out to battle not only with fire and smoke but also with almost impenetrable drifts of snow.

The first blaze, in the undertaking establishment of Clifford Brothers on Evelyn street, was extinguished quickly but with some difficulty because of the dense smoke pouring from the fire, which started from a defective chimney.

In the dim gray light of the morning, groping their way through smoke and dodging now and then to avoid a smouldering casket as it fell to the floor, the fire-fighters had a somewhat arduous and altogether eerie task subduing the flames.

Use One Line of Hose.

Three lines of hose were laid but it was found necessary to use only one. The greater part of the battle with the blaze was conducted with two 40-gallon tanks of chemicals.

Several caskets were destroyed by the flames.

While the firemen were extinguishing this fire a still alarm transmitted by telephone was received at headquarters. One truck, responding to this summons, after a bitter battle with the drifts reached the home of George W. Donahue on Washington street, where a fire was found in a partition, resulting from a defective fireplace.

The blaze was put out quickly with comparatively small damage.

## FIND OILY EXCELSIOR AFTER PRATICO FIRE

Investigators Discover Kero-  
sene-Soaked Material in  
Strong's Avenue Store.

Investigation was begun yesterday by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski into the cause of the fire which, starting early yesterday morning in the store formerly occupied by Joseph Potter at 36 Strong's avenue, made firemen fight for more than an hour to keep it from spreading and to extinguish it.

Considerable excelsior, some of which was soaked with kerosene, was found under a counter at the right hand side of the store where the fire started, in the opinion of officials of the fire department.

Phillip Pratico of South street present proprietor of the store, when questioned shortly after the fire by Chief Koltonski, said that he had left the store at about 11.30 o'clock Monday night.

Police Officer F. A. Wissel said he had seen Pratico leave the store shortly after midnight.

Kept Kerosene for Fuel.

Queried concerning the presence of the kerosene and excelsior under the counter, Pratico explained that he kept a small amount of kerosene there with which to start a fire in the stove of the store. The excelsior, he said, came from some shipments recently received, which he had unpacked Monday.

Pratico has been in business in the store for a short time, not more than a few weeks, it is understood.

The damage to the contents of the store by fire, smoke, water and chemicals used to extinguish the flames has been estimated at less than \$1000.

A steel ceiling in the store doubtless prevented the fire from spreading to upper floors of the building.

## FLAMES IN TUTTLE BLOCK DO DAMAGE OF ABOUT \$30,000

Blaze Starts in Passageway  
Near Elevator Shaft on  
the Third Floor.

HEAVY LOSS TO STOCK

Water and Smoke Injure Print-  
ed Matter and Toys; Stand-  
pipe System Proves Effective.

The four-story Tuttle company building on Center street and the entire business section of the city were menaced late yesterday afternoon by fire which, starting in a passageway on the third floor of the Tuttle block, swept into adjoining rooms and burned furiously for three-quarters of an hour causing a loss which Exbert C. Tuttle, president of the big printing and publishing house, last night placed at \$30,000.

When discovered by Miss Elizabeth Davison of Jackson avenue, a scenographer employed by the Tuttle company, the flames were leaping into the elevator shaft near which the fire is thought to have originated in a manner unknown to the owners or firemen.

Sandpipes were brought into play by employees and the ravages of the furiously burning fire were held in check until firemen arrived.

A strong west wind snatched clouds of smoke from the upper windows of the block and firefighters strove desperately to confine the blaze to the interior of the building as, fanned by the wind, it was feared the tons of books and paper in the building would ignite like tinder dooming the structure and possibly the entire business block.

Thousands of Books.

The block houses the Tuttle company's book and stationery store on the first floor, together with a wallpaper department, offices and bindery and on the upper floors are dental offices and printing rooms, and a large library of old and valuable books. Mr. Tuttle, sr., said last night the property was insured for \$125,000.

The principal damage was from smoke and water, the owners say, as tons of water were poured into the third and fourth floors in the battle with the flames.

Books, papers, wallpaper and toys were destroyed by fire and water on the third floor while on the floor above the damage was principally to machinery and the building itself, which was deluged in water.

Mr. Tuttle said that a quantity of the books and papers rendered useless as a result of yesterday's fire were ready for delivery under contract and the water damage necessitates reprinting, which, he stated, makes the loss much greater.

The main fire damage was in the immediate vicinity of the elevator shaft part of which was badly burned.

The Tuttle building is one of the newest in the city and under its roof is one of the largest stocks of books in Vermont.



#### Wind Does the Trick.

The wind blew straight from the west. It blew hard and gustily and carried on its wings flaming torches of cloth and excelsior. In the beginning the meadow below Jackson avenue caught fire. The grass there was long and the spears waved invitingly to the firebrands which found a resting place for an instant and then, puff!

The wind did the rest. The entire meadow from Avenue A to Avenue C became a living furnace, the flames hurtling in the direction of the fences and out-buildings.

Residents from the adjoining streets turned out en masse with brooms, pails of water and all sorts of garden implements and fought the on-rushing flames. They managed to stop the meadow fire but meantime the wind took a fresh hold and sent along blazing clots of cloth which fell upon the roofs of the houses.

#### Willlett Barn Goes.

One firebrand, more ambitious than the others, flew all the way from the conflagration on Stronga avenue and lit on the dry and rotted shingles of a barn in the rear of the house occupied by Theodore M. Willlett, 46 Jackson avenue—a distance of fully three quarters of a mile.

The barn immediately began to burn and a horse tied fast in a stall screamed in terror. Someone had presence of mind enough to rescue the animal, but the barn was reduced to skeleton form. The fire department sent hose along and the house itself was saved.

#### Haney House Threatened.

Next, the roof of the house of J. B. Haney, 16 Jackson avenue, began to sizzle and burn and it took some hard work by the owner and others to save the structure.

Another burning ember fastened itself onto the roof of the house occupied by George W. Cowen, 21 Jackson avenue. The fire was extinguished with difficulty.

The large double house at 20 Jackson avenue, occupied by Frank S. Farwell and P. F. McDonough, was endangered but Mr. Farwell, the owner, did some hurry-up work with the hose on the roof and sides.

#### Flames Surround Home.

The house owned and occupied by Alfred H. Duclon on Avenue B was seriously threatened inasmuch as there was burning grass in front and a veritable sea of flames in the rear.

The homes of J. Thornton, 22 Jackson avenue, and H. C. Shaw, assistant prohibition director, at No. 26, were also in the path of the flying fire.

Had not the wind subsided a little and had not the firemen done such effective work in getting hose lines to the intersection of Jackson avenue and East street there is no doubt at all that scores of dwellings on these two thoroughfares would have been wiped out, besides the section north of this part of the city would have been endangered.

NOVEMBER 26, 1924.

## LINCOLN IRON WORKS STOREHOUSE, NOYES ESTATE MILL BURN; LOSS IS \$150,000

Spectacular Fire Men-  
aces Part of City,  
Also Gas Plant.

### HARD TO COMBAT

Other Manufactories in  
Path of Flames; Valu-  
able Stock Lost.

The heart of Rutland's manufacturing district and scores of dwellings in the most densely populated section of the city faced extermination yesterday afternoon when wind-tossed, ungovernable flames destroyed the Lincoln Iron Works' huge storehouse between Baxter street and Cleveland avenue, and an old planing mill belonging to the H. F. Noyes estate at a loss which it was believed last night would approximate \$150,000.

For hours firemen fought desperately to confine the livid flames to the roaring furnace in which they originated; time and again homes on West street, south of the fire, smoldered then burst into flame and for minutes at a time it seemed that the devastating fire would sweep on to the northward razing as it went the Tauber-Lipton company's factory building, and the new garage and monster illuminating gas storage tanks of the Vermont Hydro-Electric corporation.

Early in the afternoon it appeared that there was no chance of saving the Iron company's foundry, office and adjacent buildings which are flanked on the east by the Kinsman & Mills Marble company's office.

Tons of water were poured onto the burning buildings and finally the tide of battle turned, the flames lost their energy and struggling to gain a new foothold, died to a smoldering bed of coals over which half-frozen firemen stood guard until far into the night.

#### R. R. Traffic Hindered.

Train service over the main lines of the Rutland railroad and the Delaware & Hudson railroad was hindered temporarily while the fire was at its height as the tracks which paralleled the burned buildings on the south were flanked by a wall of flame and across the rails lines of hose had been laid.

No definite figures could be obtained last night from either the Lincoln Iron Works or representatives of the Noyes estate though Howard F. Woodfin, president of the Lincoln concern said that roughly the company's loss would total \$100,000 as, in addition to the buildings, the storehouse, a two-story L shaped structure was filled with valuable plumbing and heating supplies and patterns which are almost invaluable.

#### Noyes Estate Mill.

The Noyes estate mill, operation of which was last spring taken over by the G. S. Holmes Construction company from Edward G. Gerry, wholesaler and retail lumber dealer, contained a quantity of woodworking machinery, shafting, belting, old trucks, and some stock.

Mr. Holmes said last night that, roughly his loss would be slightly under \$5000 and it was unofficially stated that Mr. Gerry's loss would be something more than this amount. Mr. Holmes carried no insurance on his property, which consisted in the main of lumber, building material and contractors' equipment.

The fire started at about 2:30 o'clock in the old Noyes mill next the railroad track and, feeding upon the tinder-dry lumber, shavings and inflammable material in the building swept through the structure almost instantly, dooming it to destruction.

#### Flames Envelop Building.

Between this mill, which was two stories in height, and the Lincoln works storehouse was an alley, or run-way over which the angry flames jumped and seized avidly upon the storage building, enveloping it almost instantly.

At the east end of the Holmes company mill is a coal shed belonging to the Lincoln Iron Works and this, well stocked with soft coal, was partially burned though constant efforts on the part of firemen saved a portion of the structure.

Twenty feet from the burning storehouse—so close that the hot breath from the seething caldron scorched it time and again—stands the brick foundry of the Lincoln company. Streams of water were constantly played on this building and it did not catch fire though at times it seemed an impossibility to save it or the wooden office building nearby from which employees carried books and valuable papers when the fire was at its worst.

To the west, and at right angles to the Holmes mill, the Tauber-Lipton shirt factory, a stucco affair, formed a barrier to spread of flames in that direction. This building was scorched and seared by the blistering flames and it was kept soaked to obviate any possibility of its catching fire.

Northwest of that, at a distance of about 50 yards, are the immense illuminating gas storage tanks of the Rutland Railway Light & Power company with a capacity of 175,000 cubic feet of gas which had been depleted yesterday to about 100,000 cubic feet.

Gas company employees, armed with fire-fighting apparatus stood ready to safeguard the tanks and prevent a renewed outbreak of such proportions that the entire section of the city might have been devastated.

Employees of the light company also helped to fight the fire at the storehouse using lines of their own hose.

#### Phone and Light Poles Burn.

Telephone and light poles in the fire zone caught fire, burned slowly then toppled to the ground, their cross-trees flaming spars which emitted showers of sparks as they fell. The walls and roofs of the two burned buildings, both of them of sturdy construction, went first, leaving, in the midst of clouds of dense black and gray smoke, pierced by blood-red flames, blazing framework which tumbled under the influence of wind and water.

During the fire a barrel of turpentine in the storehouse exploded with a loud detonation which greatly alarmed the hundreds of spectators who shivered in the raw November wind to watch the awesome blaze.

At dusk, when the fire had been controlled and most of the firemen had returned to their stations, all that remained of the storehouse and mill was one lone chimney at the southwest corner of the mill, piles of ashes and tons of warped, twisted and water-soaked metal.

The Lincoln Iron Works property was covered by insurance as was the Noyes estate mill.

The Lincoln Iron Works manufactures stone working machinery and is one of the largest distributors in the state of plumbers', steam fitters' and mill supplies. Howard F. Woodfin is president of the firm; I. I. Belnhower is vice president and manager; P. W. Adams treasurer and A. C. Marshall secretary.



# DEVASTATING FLAMES PARTIALLY GUT DANA SCHOOL WITH LOSS OF \$30,000

**Building Roaring Furnace When Alarm Is Sounded in Early Morning.**

**ORIGIN UNKNOWN**

**Parties Had Been Held at Institution Preceding Night.**

**MAYBURY INJURED**

**Low Water Pressure Slows Up Work of Firemen.**

Four blackened walls, from the midst of which a thin wisp of smoke mounted lazily and occasional showers of sparks shot heavenward, constituted the outward remains last night of the Dana school building.

Within piles of blackened and twisted metal, heaps of charred wood and rows of water-soaked seats on which snow fell through the gaping aperture where once the roof had been, bore mute evidence to the ravages of the early-morning fire which yesterday gutted the building with a loss to the city which is placed at \$30,000.

**Upper Floor in Ruins.**

On the roofless upper floor, where for hours firemen—handicapped by inadequate water pressure—battled to save the institution, all is disheartening chaos.

Below two rooms suffered as did the ones above and all bear the ineffaceable scars sustained when they were deluged by thousands of gallons of icy water which sizzled as it struck, then flowed away to form stagnant pools which quickly froze.

This morning 310 pupils and their teachers will start bellies for distant parts of the city, where, at schools to which the students have been assigned, the work of acquiring knowledge will go on uninterruptedly.

Work of removing seats from the building and cleaning up the piles of charred debris will continue, but the task of rebuilding will not be undertaken until after the March election, it was learned last night.

**Gets Good Start.**

The fire, which for a time threatened to efface the Dana school building, which has housed Rutland youngsters for 17 years, had procured a firm hold on the northern upper side of the building when, shortly before 6.30 o'clock yesterday morning, the first of the fire-fighting apparatus reached the spot.

Tongues of livid flame were shooting out of five windows on the north side of the building and curling up over the roof many feet into the air and, with only 50 pounds of water pressure available, the maximum for that section of the city, the firemen had difficulty in throwing water to the second floor.

The blaze is believed to have originated in one of the second-floor rooms and to have been burning for some time before a woman living near discovered the fire and sounded the alarm. A light in the building, which passersby are said to have seen in the early morning hours, is thought to have been the fire which, making headway, occasionally burst into flames which shone from the windows.

**Capt. Maybury Falls.**

Early in the struggle to overcome the almost overpowering headway which the blaze had made, Capt. Edward C. Maybury of Station No. 2 fell from a ladder 20 feet to the snow-covered earth. He worked on with difficulty until finally he was taken to his home in the belief that he had sustained a fractured hip. An X-ray taken yesterday afternoon revealed that the hip was merely badly bruised, however.

James T. Cocklin, a call fireman, was twice overcome by the dense black smoke which engulfed the burning building, but last night he was suffering no ill effects.

The feebleness of the stream of water with which attempts were made to get the fire under subjection caused Chief J. P. Reedy to send to the station for the fire engine, with the aid of which pressure of 200 pounds was procured on two lines of hose. Two other lines, attached to the motor pump, attained 120 pounds pressure and with this help the fire was subdued by 8 o'clock. Water was thrown onto the ruins until noon, however.

**Insurance \$22,500.**

The second floor, with the exception of the stark outer walls, is a total loss and two rooms on the first floor are likewise ruined. The remainder of the first floor and the basement were damaged by water principally. The roof of the building burned off early in the fire. Insurance of \$22,500 was carried.

Fire Chief Reedy and Walter S. Fenton, president of the school board, are to investigate the cause of the fire.

Several stories were current yesterday to the effect that the fire might have been caused by Parent-Teachers

who had a party in the building in the afternoon. The fire started upstairs, however, according to the firemen, and the stove used by the association was downstairs. There is understood to have been another party in the building in the evening which is also said to have been held downstairs.

Mr. Fenton said yesterday afternoon:

**Fenton Makes Statement.**

"I appreciate the efforts of the fire department in getting the fire under control under the existing conditions. The fire demonstrates very forcibly the necessity for another pump to overcome the lack of water pressure in the higher sections of the city."

The Dana school was built in 1907 at a cost of \$41,145, on land purchased from James E. Creed. The building committee consisted of the late Charles W. Ward, Frank J. Wade and the late George H. Baker, school commissioners. The architect was F. S. Austin of Burlington and the contractor C. W. Spear.

It was a brick building, two stories and containing nine rooms. There were nine grades and 310 pupils.

The school was named for the late Judah Dana, father of Attorney Edward Dana of Madison street. He was a school teacher in Rutland from 1868 to 1878 and was at one time on the faculty of Castleton Normal school. He was responsible for the grading of the Rutland schools. He entered the Episcopal ministry in later life and held a pastorate at West Rutland.

## Dana Pupils to Take Up Studies Today

While firemen were still struggling to save the Dana school building from total loss yesterday morning, Superintendent of Schools W. W. Fairchild was at work re-assigning the 310 pupils affected by the fire which has made occupation of the building temporarily impossible, and by early afternoon a schedule of distribution was announced.

Under the plan the Dana pupils will attend school at Madison street, the high school, Longfellow and Lincoln schools the new arrangement to take effect this morning.

**Mr. Fairchild said:**

"We call upon all parents and citizens to give the schools their assistance and co-operation in the present emergency. Some will be seriously inconvenienced by the school hours and the distance children have to travel. It is believed the new arrangement will serve the interests of the children better than any other plan."

"The long session for the young children will be broken by rest, play, lunch periods so that they will suffer no harm."

**The new schedule follows:**

Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5B of the Dana school will report at the Madison building from 12.45 p. m., to 4.30 p. m., each day. The children who are now registered at the Madison building will attend school there from 8.30 a. m., to 12.15 p. m., each day.

Grade 5A will meet in room 2 and grade 6A will meet in room 11 of the high school each day from 1 p. m., to 5 p. m.

Grade 6B and the ungraded room will meet in the Longfellow building each day from 12.45 p. m., to 4.30 p. m.

Grade 7 will have regular school hours at the Lincoln building.



# METHODIST CHURCH ON WEST STREET IS RUINED BY FLAMES

Fire Breaks Out at an Early  
Hour This Morning, But  
Edifice Is Doomed.

## STARTS IN A HORSESHED

Weather So Cold Water Freezes  
as It Strikes Building;  
Fireman Is Overcome.

At 2.30 o'clock this morning the Methodist church on West street was a seething caldron of smoke-enveloped flames facing what appeared to be certain destruction.

The rear L of the old edifice had already been sacrificed and the ancient wooden horseshed at the extreme back of the property, where the fire originated, was a charred ruin.

From the tower on the West street side of the edifice clouds of inky-black, choking smoke swirled in great volume and from open doors and broken windows scorching tongues of flame leapt with their message of ruin.

### Two Motor Vehicles Destroyed.

Three horses were taken from the burning stable early in the fire and two automobiles, a truck and a touring car which were housed there were reduced to ashes.

Adjoining buildings, frame houses, were in momentary danger of igniting but absence of wind made the task of preventing a spread of the conflagration more simple.

### Water From Hose Freezes.

It was cold and raw, so cold that water from the many lines of hose which were used to fight the flames, froze to buildings and firemen as it struck, coating everything with a thin layer of treacherous ice.

The fire was discovered at about 1:30 o'clock in the old horse shed.

At first it was believed that it might be confined to that building, but it swept with incredible rapidity through the dry, frame structure and seized upon the rear wing of the church.

Almost instantly this L was wrapped in flames and the main auditorium belched forth clouds of smoke.

### Firemen Save Other Property.

Endeavors of firemen were concentrated then upon trying to save the building and surrounding property.

The church is the center of a densely populated district and only a few hundred yards from the Rutland Free library, Burditt Brothers, C. H. Landon and company, The Hotel Hamilton, the New York Clothing company and a number of dwellings.

East of the church, across a driveway stands the home of Charles H. Barber which was hidden from view throughout the fire by the heavy smoke.

Back of the doomed edifice and facing on Pine street is the house of George J. McMaster, claim agent of the Rutland railroad and time and again it appeared certain the fire would communicate itself to his shed and barn which flanks the church property.

### Held Basketball Game.

Nothing could be learned this morning about the probable amount of the loss nor the cause of the fire although it was understood that a basketball game was held last night in the room at the back of the church.

This portion of the church was of wood with a slate roof. The main part of the building was of brick with gray stone trimmings. The fire attained a secure hold on the wooden portions of the structure and, eating its way inside fed upon pews and all inflammable material.

### All Apparatus in Action.

Every bit of available fire-fighting apparatus was called into play but firemen seemed able to make little headway against the masterful flames. The ladder truck was summoned to the fire and all possible hose was laid in a desperate attempt to turn the tide of battle.

When the fire was at its height a call fireman was overcome by the dense smoke. He was restored to consciousness within a short time and it is believed he will suffer no ill effects.

The church property has been for sale for some time and the church society has made plans for building a new church as soon as possible.

# LOSS TO METHODISTS FROM CHURCH FIRE WILL REACH \$40,000

Difference of Opinion as to  
Where Blazo Started; No  
Rebuilding Plans Yet.

INSURANCE IS \$20,500

Two widely divergent opinions as to the starting place of the fire which early yesterday morning destroyed the Methodist church on West street with a loss of approximately \$40,000 were advanced yesterday by officials of the fire department and by prominent members of the church congregation.

It first seemed that the fire started in the horseshed at the rear of the church property, which also was consumed by flames and this is the view still held by certain members of the congregation, among them Charles W. Spencer, one of the trustees. Mr. Spencer stated last evening that there was no meeting in the church Wednesday evening except one of a committee of adults. They had no fire of any kind he emphasized.

An absolutely opposite view is held by Fire Chief A. H. Koltowski, who yesterday stated as his belief that the fire started in the rear of the church above a gas stove which still stands in the Sunday school room. After investigation, he said, he found the wood of the rear wall of the church building charred on the inside whereas on the outside of the wall damage was caused only where the flames had licked through the cracks. Flames were seen making their way under the roof at the rear of the church building when firemen arrived on the scene, he emphatically stated.

The view of Chief Koltowski is shared by Mayor James C. Dunn and Commissioner of Public Safety Fred C. Roberts, who were on the scene during the fight with the flames. They inspected the interior of the building after most of the smoke had cleared away and all that was left of the blaze was the sullen gleam of dying embers.

### To Use Community House.

At a meeting of Rev. Dr. George E. Price, pastor of the church, with a number of the members of the congregation yesterday afternoon, it was decided to conduct services next Sunday in the Community house.

The damage was a little more than half covered by insurance, it was learned. The church and its contents were insured for \$20,500, the contents, alone, have been insured for about \$2000.

The loss of C. W. Spencer, who leased sheds on the church property for storage purposes, is \$500 above his insurance, he stated.

Plans for rebuilding will not be considered until after the arrival of insurance adjusters and the completion of their work, it was indicated.

### "Blind" Attic Hampers Men.

A fact that interfered considerably with fighting the fire and made it almost impossible to direct a stream of water at the heart of the flames was that most of the fire in the main body of the church was confined to a "blind" attic between the roof and the ceiling. It is explained by officials of the fire department.

In little more than a minute after the last alarm sounded, two fire trucks were at the scene of the blaze and one stream had been directed toward the burning building. Shortly after this two other lines of hose were in operation and a few moments later the truck from Station 2 at the corner of Center and Nickwackett street had arrived on the scene.

In about five minutes after the firemen arrived the roof on the rear end of the church collapsed and there were "hot air" explosions, caused by the icy water coming in contact with the heated air penned under the roof. With the roof, the chimney at the rear of the church plunged into the cauldron of flames.

Fire forced its way through the roof on the western side of the church, and menaced the house of William A. A. Anon at 185 West street less than 10 feet away, but was finally driven back after a desperate struggle.

Not long after the slate roof over the main body of the church collapsed as its supports burned away, the tide of the battle turned in favor of the fire-fighters and at about 5 o'clock in the morning the worst of the blaze had been subdued.

A truck and a touring car, the property of Victor Koutsonikolis, fruit dealer, of 184 West street, were badly damaged by fire. They were stored in a shed at the rear of the church. The truck was covered by insurance.

Three horses also domiciled in the shed were rescued by the individual work of Capt. Leo H. Stone, in charge of Station 2.

### Churches Express Sympathy.

Officials of the Baptist and Congregational churches yesterday extended to the Methodists use of their buildings for purposes of worship because of the fire.

Close upon the heels of this invitation the Baptist Young People's Union met at the Baptist church last night and adopted a resolution inviting the Epworth league of the Methodist church to hold union Sunday evening meetings at the Baptist church. The resolution offers the privilege of alternating league with young people's topics and leaders from Sunday to Sunday.

The resolution extends sympathy to the Epworth league on the loss of the church.



## \$10,000 FIRE AT VERMONT GARAGE DESTROYS 9 CARS

Flames Gut Building on River Street, Burning Motorcycle and Stored Autos.

### BOY SOUNDS ALARM

R. C. Bridges, Walter Noyes, F. O. Eddy, P. C. Sturtevant Lose Machines in Blaze.

Fire which was discovered about 9 o'clock last night in the River street garage of the Vermont Garage company, Inc., inflicted damage estimated by company officials at \$10,000 and ruined nine automobiles and a motorcycle in addition to gutting the building.

Starting from a cause which could not be ascertained or explained last night the flames had gained considerable headway and were eating their way through the roof when firemen reached the garage. In a few minutes three streams were being directed at the heart of the blaze and within an hour the fire was under control. In another half hour the flames had been extinguished.

#### Boys Discover Fire.

Among the first to notice the flames were a number of boys playing in the neighborhood and of these James Clarino of Killington avenue was instrumental in turning in the alarm at Box 63, at the corner of River and Granger streets.

The alarm sounded about an hour after the garage had been closed for the night.

Individuals who suffered loss through the destruction of their automobiles or other property included Raymond C. Bridges, local insurance agent; Walter Noyes of Cleveland avenue; Freeman O. Eddy, shop foreman of the auto sales corporation, and Paul C. Sturtevant, another employee of the garage company. Eddy was the owner of the motorcycle. Their loss, as well as that of the company, was partially covered by insurance, it was said.

A new wing which had just been added to the garage and which contained a number of Paigo, Chevrolet and Jewett automobiles, for which the corporation is a sales agency, was unharmed by the flames. The addition is a one-story tile and concrete structure.

#### Can't Determine Damage.

It was stated last night that it would be difficult to ascertain the exact amount of damage done to tires, supplies, and other accessories stored in the building in greater amount than usual, since the inventory of the company had just been completed yesterday afternoon.

I. A. Glover is president and manager of the corporation, George Beecher is secretary-treasurer, and Freeman O. Eddy, shop foreman. One of the heaviest stockholders of the company is the firm of Beecher & Guthrie of West Pawlet.

## BATTLE WITH FLAMES TO PROTECT INVALIDS

Fire in Coal Shed Near Hospital Keeps Rutland Force Busy for Hours.

With almost 100 sick and helpless patients lying in their beds less than 100 feet away, to care for whom in case of emergency two ambulances were parked with motors running, a force of 25 firemen battled furiously for two hours last night with stubborn flames in the wooden structure housing the heating plant, laundry and coal shed of the Rutland hospital and succeeded in saving the main portion of the building and the boilers and laundering machinery.

Flames caused by spontaneous combustion spread rapidly in the more than 100 tons of soft coal stored in the sheds and the firemen dared not flood the burning fuel because of the danger of an explosion, far-reaching in its effects.

#### Keep Heater Going.

Throughout the fire the heater in the building was kept going because of the necessity of heating the crowded hospital and this was an added source of danger to fire fighters and the scores of invalids whom they strove to protect.

When the firemen reached the hospital at 10 o'clock in response to an alarm from box 21 they found the big shed near the institution blazing furiously with the flames rapidly spreading to the roofs of outhouses and adjacent buildings.

#### Call Special Men.

A second alarm was sounded calling all special men who took their places with the regulars in an effort to save the hospital and its inmates from destruction.

The water pressure was exceedingly low and at first it was found to be almost impossible to make headway against the devouring flames which were consuming the roof and walls of the edifice. To aid in this dilemma two high pressure pumps were called into play and soon gallons of water were being poured into the building from four lines of hose.

Firemen were at the hospital long after midnight watching to see that the flames did not spring into new life in the heart of the mountains of coal which were heated during the fire.

#### Loss Not Determined.

No estimate of the loss could be made as the full extent of the damage could not be determined until daylight, when it was planned to make a thorough investigation.

It is believed the loss will amount to hundreds of dollars, however.

The fire started in the place where one was extinguished by firemen Saturday afternoon. Fire Chief A. H. Koltonski stated last night he is certain the flames were caused by an entirely new combustion because all the coal in the shed was shovelled over after Saturday's fire, one side of the building even being torn down to get at coal inaccessible from the door.

## PUT GOSSELIN FIRE LOSS AT \$10,000

Four Cars Are Badly Damaged When Flames Gut Rutland Service Station.

A loss estimated at \$10,000, a portion of which is covered by insurance, was sustained by the Gosselin Sales & Service station, 158 North Main street, when the interior of the garage and four cars were badly damaged by fire which was discovered about 6 o'clock yesterday morning.

A call for the fire department was sent in by telephone and at 5:55 o'clock a general alarm was rung in from Box 25. Trucks from both stations responded to the call and soon two lines of hose were pouring streams of water into the flaming building. It was necessary to attach the pump to one of the lines of hose.

The fire had been burning for some time before it was discovered and the alarm sent in.

The cause of the fire has not been determined.

## FIRE DESTROYS TENEMENT AT LOSS OF \$2000

Lincoln Iron Works Building on State Street Is Razed in Early Morning.

A tenement at 126 State street, owned by the Lincoln Iron Works and occupied by Cecil Mattison, Mrs. Rose Crandall, and Reuben S. Barrett, was destroyed by fire early yesterday morning at an approximate loss of \$2000.

The crackling of the flames awoke Mr. Mattison shortly before 3:30 o'clock yesterday morning and he telephoned to the fire department. Firemen battled with the fire for about two hours but could not save the building.

It was necessary to send back for the ladder truck after the fire trucks had reached the scene of the fire, for the ladders they carried were not long enough to reach the top of the building where the flames were blazing most furiously. Two lines of hose were brought into play.

An alarm was turned in from Box 18 at the corner of Pine and State streets to which trucks from both stations responded.

James Cocklin, a call fireman sustained a severely bruised left leg as he was riding on the ladder truck when his leg was pinched between the truck and one of the ladders on the fire truck which was drawing the ladder apparatus to the fire. He was attended by Dr. D. J. Carroll.

## NEWMAN AUTO SERVICE STATION TAKES FIRE; MAY BE FIREBUG WORK

Fire, the origin of which is believed to have been incendiary, menaced Newman's auto service station on Chaplin avenue early this morning, but was quickly extinguished before the flames could reach the automobiles and stores of gasoline and oil in the building.

Two lines of hose were playing into the loft of the structure, where the fire started, soon after the firemen arrived. Some accessories that were stored in that part of the building were slightly damaged by smoke and water, but all cars on the main floor were removed from the reach of the flames. The loss in the damage to the building, mostly in the ceiling of the main floor and the roof, is partially covered by insurance.

The fire was discovered about 1 o'clock by R. T. Brown, whose house adjoins the garage. He smelt smoke, investigated and heard the crackling of flames, and communicated with Mrs. Fordyce A. Wisell, who turned in the alarm from Box 84 across the street from the Newman building.

The fact that a man was seen by persons in the neighborhood to drive up in front of the garage about 12:30 o'clock before the fire started has led to the suspicion that the origin of the flames was incendiary.



# Important Notice

We are glad to announce to the public, our customers and friends, that there will be

## No Interruption In the Conduct of Our Business

owing to the fire in our building yesterday morning.

Store will be open as usual and all orders will be promptly filled in our Wholesale, Retail, Printing and Binding Departments.

# The Tuttle Co.

*Established 1832*

## LOSS IN TUTTLE FIRE WILL EXCEED \$12,000

Smoke and Water Cause Bulk  
of Damage on 3 Floors  
of Stationery Store.

Fire starting from an unexplained cause in the rear of the basement of the Tuttle company store on Center street early yesterday morning damaged the stock in the basement and the first two floors with smoke and caused considerable loss from fire and water in the basement and first floor. When interviewed yesterday by a Herald reporter, Egbert C. Tuttle, president of the Tuttle company, said it was impossible to make an estimate of the loss caused in the store by the flames. He said, however, that he believed more damage had been done than that caused by a previous fire last spring in which the loss was more than \$12,000.

### Police Discover Fire.

The fire was discovered by Police Officer William Vondetto, who noticed from the opposite side of Center street about 3:15 o'clock yesterday morning that the front windows of the store were streaked as if from water flowing down from the second floor. He entered the vestibule of the building to the right of the entrance to the store, smelled smoke, and turned in a fire alarm from Box 47 at the corner of Center street and Merchants Row.

All three fire trucks responded to the alarm. Windows in the basement of the store almost level with the street were broken in and the first line of hose was gotten into the building through one of those openings. Subsequent investigation discovered the fire to be in the rear of the basement to which access was gained through the doors at the end of the store driveway leading from Willow street behind the store. The flames were fought by two streams directed from the back of the building and it was not found necessary to use the first hose introduced into the front of the basement.

### Smoke Hampers Firemen.

At the height of the fire the first three floors of the building and the basement were so filled with smoke that no one could stay in the structure for any length of time and live. Most of the rear of the basement and much of the paper and other stock in that part of the building were badly damaged by fire, smoke and water.

The flames so undermined the skylight of inch-thick plate glass, which furnished light to the basement through the floor of the store office, that the glass collapsed as soon as weight was put upon it and had to be replaced with a temporary wooden flooring.

All of the light and telephone wires in the main store building were put out of commission by the fire but the flames did not spread to the rear addition which was used as a storehouse.

Except for the floor of the office and other parts of the rear of the first floor there was no damage on the first three floors above the basement except from smoke.

### A Two-Hour Battle.

The fire department found it necessary to press the hook and ladder truck into service to aid in opening windows on the first three floors of the store in order to let out the smoke. The blaze was gotten under control after about two hours of work under almost unlivable conditions due to the thick smoke and great heat and the recall was sounded at about 5 o'clock yesterday morning.

Workmen were busy all day yesterday repairing the damage of the building and the store will be open for business as usual today, Mr. Tuttle said. The entire structure, he added, was insured for \$40,000 and its contents for about \$46,000. Inventories must be completed before midnight tomorrow to present to fire insurance adjusters who are expected to arrive tomorrow or Wednesday.



MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 22, 1926.

## FLAMES GUT REAR OF CHURCH STREET HOUSE

Loss of Approximately \$6000  
Caused by Fire, Origin of  
Which Is Unknown.

Loss estimated at approximately \$6000 was caused by a fire which was discovered about 2 o'clock yesterday morning in a house at 26 Church street, owned by H. E. Seward of Elm street and occupied by John Pantas.

The fire was discovered by Dr. D. J. Carroll, whose home is located at 39 Church street. He smelled smoke and telephoned fire department headquarters. When the firemen arrived on the scene they found flames and smoke pouring from the cellar windows of the Pantas house and from under the eaves. An alarm was sent out from Box 41 at the corner of West and Church streets, bringing the full equipment of the three trucks of the department into action.

Battling amid thick clouds of smoke, for the blaze had evidently been going some time before it was discovered, the firemen carried three lines of hose into the burning building and after a three-hour fight succeeded in getting the flames under control.

Frank Rice, call fireman, was temporarily overcome by smoke, but quickly recovered.

The cause of the fire is as yet undiscovered. It is believed, however, that the flames started in the basement and worked their way up through the partitions of the wooden building to the roof. The rear end of the structure was badly gutted and the front end of the second story somewhat damaged by the flames. It is estimated that the loss to the owner of the building and to Pantas who occupied it will be about \$6000, the greater part of this amount taking in the damage to the house.

## 30 VALUABLE DOGS ARE SUFFOCATED IN NORTH STREET FIRE

Dr. Farnsworth's Garage  
Burns and Smoke Fills  
Loganbrae Kennels  
Few Feet Away.

### TWO AUTOS RUINED

About 30 valuable pedigreed dogs lost their lives through suffocation and two autos were damaged by fire if not entirely ruined when the garage of Dr. A. W. Farnsworth at 29 North street went up in flames shortly before midnight last night, igniting and filling with smoke the Loganbrae Scotch terrier kennels a few feet away, also owned by Dr. Farnsworth.

The firemen worked against great odds in the intense cold and water which they threw on the blazing structure froze almost as it struck—froze to the firefighters' coats, boots and helmets and formed small icy ponds in which men worked in their efforts to save the helpless dogs from destruction.

When the firemen were summoned about 11 o'clock by an alarm turned in from Box 25 at the corner of North and North Main streets the garage was a mass of flames as the fire had gained a considerable start before it was discovered.

#### Try to Extricate Dogs.

Neighbors labored with Dr. Farnsworth and his two sons Dan and Arthur in an effort to extricate the more than 50 Scotch terriers in the kennels next to the doomed building but none of the crowd was able to produce a flashlight or a lantern and most of the dogs were in the top floor of the kennels, a two-story building which was filled with smoke.

They finally succeeded in carrying out about 15 of the dogs, mostly puppies and a few mature females. These were taken into the kitchen of the Farnsworth home.

#### Work in Zero Weather.

In spite of the almost zero weather the work of fighting the fire went on with unabated vigor and a large crowd gathered to watch and spur the workers on despite the lateness of the hour.

MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 25, 1926.

## SODA SPA STOCK IS DAMAGED BY SMOKE WHEN GAS EXPLODES

Basement Becomes Filled With Flames When  
Thomas Boretos, Employe, Lights Bit of  
Paper in Furnace; Has Narrow Escape.

Loss estimated at \$5000, due largely to smoke, was caused by a fire originating from exploding coal gas in the basement of the Rutland Soda Spa, 15 Center street, early yesterday morning, which called out all of the apparatus from Stations 1 and 2. Because the fire was located in the heart of the business district a large crowd of spectators quickly assembled.

The basement was all in flames and the fire had begun to eat through the floor when the trucks arrived and it took the firemen two hours to extinguish the last spark. The damage results from the smoke that filled the building and filtered through into the F. L. Center store adjoining on the east and even into the Tuttle store which is located in the next building on the west.

#### Thomas Boretos Burned.

An explosion that shook the building and knocked the chairs from the tables where they were placed for the night was the first intimation of danger to the employes who were closing the soda emporium for the night. Thomas Boretos, one of the employes, had gone to the basement, and, wishing to light a cigarette, opened the furnace door and held a piece of paper to the flame. The instant that he took the blazing paper from the furnace, gas which filled the basement exploded, burning one arm and singeing his hair and eyebrows.

The flames and smoke already had cut off his retreat by way of the stairs in the rear and he made his escape in the nick of time by a trap door opening behind the soda fountain.

The telephone had been put out of order by the explosion and it was a matter of 10 or 15 minutes before an alarm was rung in from a box on the street. Before the trucks arrived the

lights had gone out, handicapping the firemen to some extent. The men who were in the building say that they heard smaller explosions after the first, for which they have no explanation unless it was the bursting of the heating system.

A large tank of ammonia, part of the automatic refrigerating system used in the making and keeping of ice cream was located in the basement, and had the fire not been controlled early, there is little doubt but that the tank would have burst from the heat. The receptacle was in the part of the basement toward the street and the fire started and reached its height in the rear where the furnace was located.

#### Stock Is Damaged.

A large quantity of goods stored in the basement was ruined by fire and water. The beams under the rear of the store at the point where the fire started are burned so that they will have to be replaced as will a considerable section of the floor. Basement windows and a door in the rear were broken by the firemen to gain an entrance for the hose lines and it was necessary to chop a hole in the floor of the store for the same purpose. The stock of perishable goods, mainly candy, on the shelves and in the cases is damaged somewhat by the smoke.

George L. Pappas, the proprietor of the Spa, was in Springfield, Mass., on business. He was notified yesterday and will return immediately to supervise the work of restoring the property. Mr. Pappas had been planning extensive alterations to be undertaken after the holidays, and it is probable that he will finish this work before re-opening for business. The loss was largely covered by insurance. Etta M. Fenn owns the building.



## FIRE IN SWYER STORE THREATENS BUILDING

Blaze in Mattresses in Basement Causes Much Smoke; Loss Is \$500.

In smoke so dense it was impossible to see two feet away, the Rutland fire department by rapid work extinguished what might have developed into a serious fire in the basement of Carl Swyer's furniture store on West street about 7:30 o'clock last night. By ordering that the fire be put out with chemicals instead of water Chief A. H. Koltowski prevented water damage and kept the loss down to an estimated \$500 which is fully covered by insurance.

A telephone call at 7:24 followed by a general alarm from box 43, rung in by Officer Burt Murphy brought the fire department to the store which already was filled with smoke. By opening all possible doors and windows the building was soon ventilated, but smoke, however, kept rising from the cellar and escaping through the upstairs windows.

The fire centered in a pile of mattresses in one side of the basement and by the use of a 40-gallon chemical tank it was kept from spreading to a large stock of new furniture stored downstairs.

Though no definite cause for the fire has yet been discovered, it is believed the flames originated from a lighted cigarette stub accidentally dropped on the pile of mattresses. The building was closed for the night at 6 o'clock by one of the salesmen, Mr. Swyer having left for home sometime previous.

The structure is fireproof, being made of tile. There are no hollow partitions through which flame could spread. All three floors of the building were stored with furniture.

## MEAT IS SMOKED IN - HUDSON MARKET FIRE

Blaze in One of Nest of Wooden Buildings Is Quickly Subdued.

Fire originating in the basement of an old frame building on West street, occupied by the City Cash Market, last night gave the fire department a busy half-hour shortly after 6:30 o'clock. There was no loss on the building by fire, but a large quantity of meat stored in the refrigerating rooms was damaged by the smoke and water which poured upon it.

The cause of the blaze is not definitely known, but the firemen were of the opinion that a carelessly thrown cigarette stub might have been responsible. There was no fire in the furnace or any hot ashes about the premises.

The flames were confined to an accumulation of boxes and rubbish in the basement and did not spread to the surrounding woodwork and floor timbers. Because of the fear that the fire had gained access to the partitions the firemen ripped off several boards above the gills but found that there was no indication of a blaze between the walls.

Herbert D. Hudson, manager of the market, could not give last night an estimate of the damage done. It is likely that a large quantity of meat is ruined as well as butter and lard which were stored in the refrigerator.

The building stands in one of the most dangerous spots in the city as it communicates directly with a number of wooden structures on West, Willow and Edson streets. Firemen expressed the conviction last night that the business section of the city would have been in serious danger had the flames not been immediately controlled.

## FIREMEN GET THREE CALLS IN ONE DAY

Keenan Brothers Battery Shop Damaged; Blazes in Dump and Flue.

The local fire department was called out three times yesterday. One of the perennial blazes at the city dump on River street was the cause of an alarm from box 63, River and Granger streets, at 7 o'clock last evening. About noon the trucks were summoned to the home of James McGinnis, 146 Library avenue, the house having become filled with smoke because of a soot-filled chimney. At 2:30 in the morning firemen had an hour's fight with a blaze which badly damaged the battery station and vulcanizing shop of Keenan Brothers at 24 Evelyn street.

The Evelyn street blaze was discovered by Policeman Ford A. Wisell who sent in an alarm. On account of fumes from sulphuric acid in the burning batteries and dense smoke from charred rubber the fire was a hard one to combat at first. When the men answered the alarm flames were shooting high into the air from the roof of the wooden building and three streams of water were necessary to subdue them.

The cause of the fire has not been definitely determined as there was no one in the building at the time. The structure, which is owned by Joseph Mintzer, was badly damaged and Keenan Brothers lost the greater part of their stock. The loss is estimated at upwards of \$2000, partly covered by insurance.

JANUARY 26, 1926.

## \$2000 FIRE MENACES STORE AND TENEMENT

Stubborn Blaze in Partition Works Way From Johnson Home to Howard Shop.

Firemen were called out four times yesterday, three times to chimney fires and once in the afternoon to a more serious blaze which caused about \$2000 damage in an apartment on Merchant Row, occupied by Oscar Johnson, and in the Howard Electric company store next door. The flames, apparently starting in the Johnson place, worked their way up a partition into the attic of the neighboring building occupied by the Howard store.

The first blaze at 8:05 o'clock yesterday morning summoned the fire fighters to 141 Library avenue. The second fire about 9 o'clock was caused by a defective chimney at 123 Temple street. The flames were quickly extinguished in both instances. A third trip was made to put out a chimney fire about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon at 151 Woodstock avenue.

All three trucks answered the alarm at 1:37 o'clock yesterday afternoon for the fire on Merchant Row and after a stubborn fight of more than an hour the flames were subdued.

## HAYMOW BLAZE GIVES FIREMEN LONG BATTLE

Spend Three Hours in Subduing Stubborn Fire in H. W. Bride's Barn.

Two calls from the outskirts of the city provided a good day's work for the firemen yesterday. In the morning they extinguished a chimney fire on Freeman avenue and in the afternoon fought a stubborn hay fire in a barn belonging to Henry W. Bride at Stratton road.

The latter blaze started about 2 o'clock, two trucks responding to a still alarm. When the firemen reached the remote dwelling, almost the last house within the city limits, the flames were appearing through the roof while the hay and straw in the loft was burning furiously.

Two lines of hose from the nearest hydrant, run through pump 2, were used and the progress of the flames quickly checked. It was necessary, however, to pitch out part of the hay and to wet the entire mass thoroughly before leaving the premises. Not until 5 o'clock did the trucks return to the station.

It is thought the fire was started by children playing with matches although spontaneous combustion also was given as a possible cause.

## Fireplace Cause of Kingsley Court Blaze

A defective fireplace was the cause of a fire which broke out in a house on Kingsley Court occupied by Chester H. Remington yesterday morning at 5:30 o'clock. One truck answered a telephone alarm, the firemen ringing the box when they arrived. Two more trucks and Ladder No. 1 went on the second alarm.

The fire was in a partition of the first floor. It was extinguished with chemical, about \$200 being the estimated damage.



## FRENIER AUTO PLANT DAMAGED BY FLAMES

Fire of Unknown Origin  
Causes \$2000 Loss at  
Motor Supply Station.

Damage estimated at about \$2000 was caused by a fire which started in the workshop of the Fronier Auto Supply company, 100 Cleveland avenue, at 6:30 o'clock last night. No one was in the building at the time, the blaze having made considerable headway before it was discovered. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

Starting in the rear of the establishment, where a small section is reserved for repair work, the flames soon broke through the roof after having destroyed a Studebaker coupe, several storage batteries and a large supply of tools. Being made of tile, the walls were not seriously damaged.

Firemen arrived just in time to prevent the blaze from spreading along the under side of the roof into the supply room, which was stocked with a large amount of inflammable material, including barrels of lubricating oil. Damage to this section was limited to that inflicted by water and smoke.

A 35-minute fight was necessary to subdue the flames, the firemen being hampered by dense clouds of black, oily smoke. Many spectators appeared upon the scene, in spite of rain, and automobiles were lined up in both directions along Cleveland avenue.

JANUARY 21, 1927.

## ODD FELLOWS' HOME THREATENED BY FIRE

Partition in Basement  
Burns When Hot Ashes  
Are Piled on Floor.

Although the new Odd Fellows home on Court Square, erected last fall at a cost of over \$30,000, was threatened with destruction by a fire which broke out in the basement about noon yesterday, quick work on the part of the fire department not only saved the building but confined the loss to about \$1500.

One partition in the furnace room was destroyed; joists in the floor above were charred, and the volume of smoke that were produced by the burning green lumber caused some damage to the lodge rooms. Since the fire was confined to the basement there was no water damage.

Taking advantage of the warm weather to do some required work on the heating system of the building, the janitor, K. E. Whitman, engaged only the day before for the job, had drawn the fire from the furnace, leaving the coals piled on the cement floor. While he and the men working with him were at dinner, a wood and beaver board partition behind the furnace caught fire, and the walls and ceiling of the furnace room were a mass of roaring flames before the alarm was given.

### Use Two Lines of Hose.

A telephone call brought a truck from station 1 at 12:30 o'clock and while two lines of hose from the truck pump were being laid a box alarm was summoning the rest of the force. One 40-gallon tank of chemical was used in addition to the water. Clouds of acrid smoke from the pitch-filled wood made the work of the firemen difficult, it being impossible at first to remain in the room without danger of suffocating.

With the fire extinguished, open windows cleared the rooms above of smoke in short order and at 2 o'clock the Catholic Woman's club, which had assembled for an afternoon card party, was able to proceed as though nothing had occurred. Chief Alfred H. Koltanski stated that, with the start gained by the fire, a few minutes difference in the arrival of the trucks might have meant the loss of the building.

MARCH 11, 1927.

## SEEK MAN WHOSE CIGARETTE STARTED WALES STREET FIRE

Police Dragnet Is Out for  
Smoker Causing Loss of 8  
Cars, Death of 2 Horses.

AT DENNING GARAGE

Damage of \$5000 Results as  
Blazing Gasoline Sets Wood-  
en Building Afire.

The police and members of the fire department were searching last night for an unknown person, who while refueling his automobile at the garage and livery stable of Patrick Denning on the west side of Wales street about 3:15 o'clock in the afternoon lighted a cigarette, the explosion of gasoline which ensued setting the two-story wooden building on fire.

### Damage Totals \$5000.

Property damage amounting to about \$5000 was caused, two horses were burned to death, eight automobiles were ruined and other buildings in the heart of the business section were menaced by the man's act which Chief Alfred H. Koltanski last night characterized as criminal carelessness.

So far as known the person who caused the fire was not injured but the proprietor of the garage was burned about the face. Others had narrow escapes from the flames in rescuing horses stabled in the building which belongs to the Clark Long estate. Smoke caused some damage in the loft of a building in the rear of the Shagraw drugstore, adjoining the garage on the north.

### Smoke Permeates Theater.

The smoke also found its way into the auditorium of the Strand theater, several doors to the south, which was crowded with patrons. The management assured the crowd that there was no danger and the moving picture performance went on without interruption.

The alarm from box 45 in mid-afternoon and the dense, black smoke which quickly rolled skyward as the flames spread through the old frame building attracted hundreds of people to the scene. There was great excitement in the crowd when a group of men almost carried from the garage a horse so badly singed that it was barely able to stand and word went round that two more of the animals lay dead inside, either suffocated or cut off by flames.

### Save Horses in Basement.

These horses were on the main floor. Three others which were in the basement were led to safety through a rear entrance. Three motor vehicles that had been left in the basement also were taken out undamaged. The fire reached seven cars on the ground floor and one on the second story.

Only the fact that the alarm was given immediately and the prompt response of firemen saved the wooden building from burning to the ground and prevented the spread of the flames to nearby brick blocks and the one-story wooden structure adjoining, occupied by the Roma restaurant.

### Many Volunteers Assist.

Firemen fighting the flames with more than a half dozen lines of hose from two trucks were aided by a large number of call men and many volunteers who assisted in removing horses from the burning building.

In less than an hour after the alarm had been sounded the fire was under control and the recall blast sounded at 4 o'clock.

The two horses burned to death were the property of Jay Gould of Shrewsbury and "Ded" Trombley of the Quarterline road. The rigs to which the animals were harnessed were badly damaged by flames and water. An animal owned by William Burke was so badly burned that it was doubtful if it could be saved.

Among the owners of cars more or less damaged by the flames were: George Mossey, Cottage street; Clifford E. Sullivan, Wales street; Frank W. Miller, Center street; Egbert R. Noyes, Wales street; Joseph Stacy, South Main street. Miller's auto was on the second floor and the others were stored on the ground floor.

## P. M. HOLLAND'S HOME DAMAGED BY FLAMES

Source of Fire Starting  
When Family Was Out  
Is Mystery.

Fire, which started while all the members of the family were away, burned through a partition and badly damaged two rooms in the rear of Pearl M. Holland's residence at 26 Woodstock avenue about 10 o'clock last night. The cost of repairs was estimated at \$500.

The origin of the blaze, which was not discovered until it was well under way, remained a mystery. There was a coal fire in the kitchen range. The flames apparently started, however, in the dining room, gutting the partition between the rooms and burning through the floor and the ceiling. Rugs and furniture were destroyed and some damage caused by smoke.

A neighbor, Frank W. Johnson, who was passing in his automobile, saw the flames through the front windows and telephoned to the fire station. Trucks 1 and 2 answered the alarm. A line of hose was laid but was not called into use as chemical extinguishers from the two trucks were sufficient to subdue the fire.

A large crowd was attracted to the spot, many of those attending a lawn party deserting in search of excitement. To a few this was supplied when the coupling of a chemical hose gave way under the pressure drenching nearby on-lookers.

## Flames Damage Garage Of Luther D. Hewitt

Moquin Bakery Truck Ruined  
In Royce Street Blaze;  
Total Loss \$500.

A private garage owned by Luther D. Hewitt of Royce street was partially destroyed by a fire which started from an unknown cause at 11:45 o'clock yesterday morning. The damage is estimated at approximately \$500. One automobile, which was parked in the building at the time, a truck belonging to the Moquin bakery of Burlington, was a total loss.

Trucks two and three of the fire department responded to a still alarm, the blaze being well under way by the time the firemen arrived. The roof and walls of the structure remained standing, although the interior was gutted.

Firefighters remained on the scene for an hour before it was decided that the blaze was entirely extinguished.



## Patrick Starr, Slate Worker, Badly Hurt

Patrick Starr of Poulney, an employe of the Consolidated Slate Corporation of Vermont, received a fractured skull yesterday morning at about 11 o'clock when he was walking underneath a refuse carrier near the slate quarries. The bottom of the carrier is said to have given way, dropping a quantity of slate upon him.

The man was rendered first aid by Dr. J. Emmett O'Brien of Poulney and was then removed to the Rutland hospital where he was attended by Dr. Charles H. Swift.

Besides the injured skull, Mr. Starr suffered lacerations about the face and body.

## \$1200 FIRE IN PLANT OF MATTRESS FIRM

Spark From Electric Cotton Picker Starts Blaze Gutting Factory.

The third serious fire in Rutland within a week, caused damage of approximately \$1200 to the second story of the old school building on School street yesterday morning about 7.52, when a spark from an electric cotton picker, ignited a bale of cotton floss, used by the Antiseptic Bedding company, the occupants of the second floor, in the making of mattresses.

After a hard struggle the firemen got the blaze under control confining the damage to that floor and the attic of the building. The property of the Rutland Ice Cream company on the first floor was untouched.

An employe of the mattress company discovered the cotton floss smoldering, but before he could take any action the room was a blazing inferno, fueled by the inflammable materials.

### Two-Hour Fight.

An alarm was sent in from box 53 and the firemen soon had three streams on the building. Fighting dense black smoke which rolled out on all sides the men reached the interior of the factory and after two hours' work the danger was over.

The old schoolhouse, a wooden building, is in a crowded vicinity and at first it was feared that the whole neighborhood would be endangered. The flames gutted the room in which they started and did some damage to the attic. The machinery of the Antiseptic Bedding company, which is operated by Abraham Lash of this city was almost totally destroyed.

The building is owned by J. B. Lash of Grove street and until a few years ago was used as a schoolhouse. The city playgrounds are on the west side of the structure.

## OVER-PAID FIREMEN MUST RETURN MONEY

Two Wrongfully Receiving Second-Year Pay Ordered to Make Good.

The storm, which has long been dormant in the aldermanic chambers, broke out mildly again last night, after the special committee reported on the matter of whether two members of the fire department, who had been paid second year men's compensation from January 1 to March 31, when they should have been receiving first year salary, had returned the extra amount to the city.

The committee, composed of William T. Simonds, Jack A. Harrison and Horace J. Colburn, reported that James and Frank Rice, both of the Central station, had received second year pay for 13 weeks, and that the committee had recommended that the money be paid back before September 1. It was reported that one of the men had been paying back the money and owed the city only \$15.75.

### Bruten Takes Floor.

Alderman Daniel A. Bruten, acting as president "pro tem" in the absence of President A. C. Grover, took the floor after calling Alderman Horace A. Colburn to the chair and commented on the report. Alderman Bruten declared that it was his idea that at least on one other occasion in the fire department, a one year man had received two year pay and nothing had been done about, and that he was quite certain that some members of the present board were aware of the condition at that time.

Alderman Simonds, who had suggested the payroll investigation said that if he had known of the case he would have taken the same action and inquired why Alderman Bruten had not done so.

### Would Bond Fire Chief.

The board accepted the report, which in addition to the recommendations mentioned, suggested that the chief of the fire department be bonded for \$1000 in view of the fact that he prepares the payroll of the department.

Alderman Charles R. Cheney voted "no" on the report as he did not like system of collecting the money, as suggested in the report.

A number of building permits were granted. The petition of the Odd Fellows for the use of Main Street park for a lawn party was granted. Other routine business was transacted.

Aldermen Bruten, Cheney, Burbank, Simonds, Harrison, Kirby, and Colburn were present.

AUGUST 18, 1928

## WITH BABE IN ARMS, WOMAN TAKES PLUNGE

Mrs. Harold Gordon, Fleeing Flames at Her Home, Falls Downstairs.

Three fires, the loss from which is expected to total well over \$2000, called out the fire department yesterday. A barn on North street extension, owned by Floyd Blanchard, was destroyed in the afternoon about 3:40 o'clock. At 10:30 in the morning the men were called to extinguish a fire, caused by the explosion of an oil stove at 360 Horton street.

At 12:50 in the morning, the department was called to Chaplin avenue to check a blaze in a dump, in the rear of the Newman garage.

Fleeing with a child in her arms, to escape the rapidly spreading blaze, caused by an exploding oil stove in her upstairs apartment on Horton street, Mrs. Harold Gordon tripped at the top of the stairs leading to the downstairs tenement and plunged down the entire flight, badly injuring her back. She was removed to a nearby house. The baby was not injured.

The firemen confined the oil fire to the shed, in which it had started and to an adjoining room, the total damage being estimated by Chief Alfred H. Koltonski as \$500. The house is owned by J. A. Crossman and occupied by William Keenan and family and the Gordon family.

### Barn and Hay Burns.

Spontaneous combustion is thought to have been the cause of a fire in the hay barn of Floyd Blanchard on North street extension, which destroyed the structure with 30 tons of hay which recently had been stored there and a Ford truck, making a total loss of about \$1500.

The blaze was discovered about 3:40 o'clock by Mr. Blanchard, who immediately called the fire department. As the nearest hydrant was one-half mile away and there were no streams nearby from which water might be pumped, the firemen were helpless. The barn was all ablaze within 10 minutes after the start and it would have been impossible to save it even had there been water at hand. Chief Koltonski stated last night.

The hay, the last of which had been mowed away during the early part of the week, added heat to the fire, and the firemen were unable to get near the building.

### Blanchard House Saved.

It was learned last night, that the loss was partly covered by insurance. Mr. Blanchard's residence, which was about 50 feet south of the barn, was not menaced as the wind blew the smoke and flames to the north.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1927.

## Muscatello Store Is Damaged By Flames

A box alarm at 2:15 o'clock yesterday morning summoned the firemen from station 1 to 19 Meadow street where a building owned by Dominick Romano and occupied as a grocery store by Mrs. Carmine Muscatello was on fire. Two lines of hose were laid and the blaze soon was under control. The interior of the building was badly damaged by fire and the stock ruined.



## FIRE CAUSES \$15,000 LOSS AT CRESTWOOD

West Wing Soaked, Roof  
Damaged as Flames Break  
Out Near Chimney.

Crestwood hotel on Grove street was badly damaged by flames and water late yesterday afternoon, when fire which was attributed to a defective chimney, spread to a number of rooms, gutted part of the roof and destroyed a cupola in the west wing of the building. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltowski estimated last night that the loss would probably exceed \$15,000, believed to be covered by insurance.

The building which is owned by Robert C. and Albert J. Boynton of this city is operated as a summer hotel.

The first alarm was given about 4:30 when Miss Mary Moore, clerk on duty, called the fire department and reported a chimney blaze. Chief Koltowski with one truck responded and found the flames eating into the partitions from the cellar to the attic in the west wing of the building.

Immediately, he summoned all available apparatus and an alarm for call men was sent in from Box 16. The chief said he believed that the fire had been raging for two hours inside the partitions before it was discovered.

### Furniture Saved.

Four lines of hose were played on the burning section. Fear was felt that the whole structure would be destroyed and scores of volunteers rushed to the inside of the building. Despite, falling plaster and dense smoke, carried out to the open air practically all the furniture in the burning wing. Among the articles saved were priceless antiques, used in decorating the rooms.

The wooden structure burned rapidly and the firemen had to combat dense smoke which was pouring out on all sides. The flames, raging inside the partitions, and breaking out only occasionally, made a difficult job for the men. After they had chopped their way to the center of the flames on the third floor and played two streams of water there, the danger was over.

The fire damage for the most part was confined to three bed rooms in the west wing, but water drenched the entire west front section of the building's interior.

### Ceiling Falls On Firemen.

Fear for the safety of Capt. Ralph R. Beane and Fireman Frank Rice was felt, when the ceiling in a room on the third floor crashed down on to their heads, but neither man was injured. In this room the flames consumed the ceiling, walls and contents.

Chief Koltowski stated last night that in his opinion, a grate fire on the first floor was responsible for the damage. The flames, caused by a defective chimney, spread rapidly both upwards and downwards. "The men deserve a lot of credit for their work. They ate a lot of smoke but stayed right on the job," he said.

The loss is the largest in a single fire here since 1924 when flames destroyed a number of buildings, belonging to the Lincoln Iron works on West and Baxter streets.

### Formerly Baxter Mansion.

The building, which is three stories high and of frame construction, formerly was the residence of the late Gen. H. H. Baxter. The estate was sold in March, 1927 for \$70,000 by the general's son, Hugh H. Baxter of New Rochelle, N. Y., to a group of citizens, who deeded the house and some out-buildings to Robert C. and Albert J. Boynton, after reserving a tract of land as a High school site.

Messrs. Boynton redecorated the interior in harmony with the original design of the old mansion and many of the Baxter furnishings remained. It was opened as a summer hotel on June 30, 1927.

The structure contains 30 bedrooms and the dining room seats about 75 persons.

NOVEMBER 23, 1928.

## MARSHAL ASKED TO PROBE BLAZE HERE

Local Officials Unable To  
Learn Origin of Fire  
Early Yesterday.

A rigid investigation of the fire which broke out at 63 Wales street early yesterday morning will be made today by State Fire Marshal A. G. Preble of Burlington.

The marshal was summoned to Rutland after Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltowski, Captain Ralph R. Beane and Captain Leo Stone had searched the place yesterday in vain for a possible cause of the blaze.

The chief announced yesterday that about \$2000 damage was done to the building and that the Boston Lunch, a restaurant in the block, also suffered a large loss.

Mrs. Elizabeth Harvey, a tenant in an apartment on the second floor of the building, was the first to discover the blaze. She awoke about 1:45 o'clock and heard the loud crackling of flames. She did not realize what was happening until large clouds of smoke began to pour into her apartment. Clad only in her night clothes, she threw on a coat, rushed to the Berwick hotel and called in an alarm.

### Business Blocks Saved.

The firemen arrived in a few seconds and when Chief Koltowski saw that the blaze threatened the entire block he ordered a bell alarm sent in from Box 45 to summon the call men.

Four lines of hose were turned on the building, the rear of which was blazing up like a fiery furnace. Within one-half hour the men had the blaze under control and what looked at one time like the destruction of a considerable portion of Rutland's business district was averted.

Water damage was done to the plumbing shop of Martin L. Connelly, which is located in the building next to the damaged block. The Boston Lunch, owned by Louis Segale of Washington street, was badly damaged both by fire and water. The Denning livery stable next door was not damaged.

Due to the mystery which surrounds the cause of the fire, Fire Chief Koltowski desired the blaze to be investigated by Marshal Preble.

DECEMBER 3, 1928.

## EARLY MORNING FIRE DESTROYS JUNK SHED

Firemen Branchaud and Rice  
Injured When Strong's  
Avenue Barn Burns.

Two Rutland fire department members sustained injured toes when a shed owned by Nathan Blumberg of Strong's avenue, situated in the rear of his home, was destroyed by fire yesterday morning at 5:30 o'clock.

One toe was broken and the other badly crushed on the right foot of Louis A. Branchaud, while James Rice sustained a badly crushed toe on the left foot.

The shed, which was filled with junk, was a total loss. Chief Alfred H. Koltowski estimated last night that the damage will total about \$2000, part of which is covered by insurance.

When the department arrived the building was in flames and was menacing a barn and garage nearby, and the Blumberg home. Four lines of hose were laid. The fire was confined to the shed. The firemen were obliged to shoveled tons of old magazines, tires and other junk out of the building.

The Blumberg family were unaware of the blaze until the firemen arrived. A passer-by sent in the alarm.

During the blaze the roof of the barn fell in on Fireman Timothy Driscoll, but he escaped without injury.



## FIRE SWEEPS GARAGE OF KEENAN BROTHERS

Department Has Stubborn  
Fight to Check \$5000  
Blaze; One Car Ruined.

A loss estimated at close to \$5000 resulted from a fire which swept through Keenan Brothers' tire and battery supply station on South Main street shortly after 9 o'clock last night. Flames had broken through the roof and were raging from one end of the building to the other by the time firemen had arrived.

The greatest individual loss came with the destruction of a large stock of tires, most of which had been yesterday received by the company. One car was ruined, as was a large supply of batteries and other accessories. Two barrels of oil exploded soon after the firemen were upon the scene, making it particularly hazardous for them to get in close to the blazing structure.

A young man who has done some odd jobs for the company, was in the building at the time the blaze started, working over a car which was parked in the rear of the garage. Going into the supply room in the opposite end of the structure, he was startled by an explosion, turned back and saw that the room he had left was in flames. He then rushed to the telephone, but was unable to call in an alarm, possibly because the wires had been burned. He does not know the cause of the fire.

### Save Dwelling House.

The first alarm was sounded from box 31 by a pedestrian who happened to be passing near the scene of the blaze. Three trucks responded, carrying with them all available men. The firemen confined their first efforts to driving the flames away from two gasoline pumps which stood near the edge of the highway, and to wetting down a large combination store and dwelling house, close to the garage.

It was a difficult fire to control, owing to the headway gained before streams of water were turned upon it. The clouds of black smoke from burning rubber were so dense that firemen found it almost impossible to make their way about the building, once the flames had been beaten back.

### Fight Flames Two Hours.

Nearly two hours had elapsed before the blaze was wholly subdued. The walls of the structure, which were constructed of cement blocks, remained standing, but practically all the windows had been smashed and the roof was punctured with many big holes. Practically everything in the way of stock was ruined.

The usual crowd attended, automobiles blocking the road in both directions for more than an hour.

## GAS PROVES MENACE IN APARTMENT BLAZE

Heat Opens Main As Fire  
Breaks Out In Basement  
Of Olney Building.

Swift action by the local fire department averted serious damages from a blaze which started in the basement of the Olney apartment, 20 West street, shortly after 8 o'clock Saturday evening, charring the entire cellar and filling the building with smoke.

C. I. Seward, a fireman, was nearly overcome by illuminating gas when the heat of the flames melted a main, allowing fumes to escape into the basement. Even after this flow was shut off at another point, the fighters were hampered in their work owing to the fact that the gas had thoroughly permeated the cellar. The main telephone cable also was melted, thus cutting off all connections soon after the flames were discovered.

Firemen expressed the opinion that the blaze started from sparks which escaped through broken isinglass in the door of a small stove used for burning refuse, igniting papers piled nearby. The men declared that they arrived just in time to prevent the flames from breaking through the first floor partitions, though the building had already been so filled with smoke that the few families which were at home had been forced to vacate.

The entire department, including 24 men and four trucks, responded after warning had been sent in over the telephone, and the fire was pronounced out just 50 minutes later. Though the fight was a stubborn one on account of escaping gas and the great heat developed, only one line of hose and one 40-gallon chemical were required to keep the flames from spreading to the upper floors of the structure.

Assured that the blaze was under control, residents of the apartment did not attempt to remove their belongings, although forced to remain outside for some time themselves until the smoke had settled.

E. Lewis Olney, owner of the apartments, stated that the damage incurred was less than \$100.

FEBRUARY 16, 1928.

## ICE BLOCKS EFFORT TO RESCUE FLAMING W. RUTLAND SCHOOL

Main Street Grade Building  
Ruined Early Yesterday,  
Entailing \$50,000 Loss.

### RUTLAND LENDS AID

Old Structure Guttled, Furni-  
ture Destroyed, As Fire  
Roars Through Walls.

The most disastrous fire that has broken out in West Rutland in several years almost destroyed the Main Street graded school building yesterday morning, gutting partitions and floors, burning through the roof and leaving only the brick walls of the first two floors standing.

The loss was estimated by Chief Charles L. Montgomery of the West Rutland Fire department at \$45,000 to \$50,000. It is understood that approximately \$30,000 was covered by insurance.

### Fire Started Early.

Flames were discovered coming through the roof at the rear of the building and an alarm was sounded at 7:55 o'clock. When the 14 members of the West Rutland Fire department arrived a few minutes after 8 the building was a mass of flames. Hampered by treacherous ice which covered the school yard and the street the men strung two lines of hose from one hydrant to the department's new motor pump, used for the second time yesterday.

With pressure from the pump two powerful streams were thrown on the roof and in the second story windows but a third line attached to the same main at another hydrant and with only the pressure of the main behind it was, at first, almost useless.

A call for help was sent to Rutland and combination truck Number 1 with Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and four men reached West Rutland at 8:25 o'clock. Two lines were laid from an abandoned quarry 600 feet from the school and for three hours five streams deluged the burning building.

Yesterday afternoon the ruins were still smoking and firemen with one line of hose were guarding against a further outbreak. The roof was gone; a brick belfry on the front of the building which had been weakened by the fire had been pulled down and the interior was a mass of charred embers and water-soaked plaster.

### Almost Total Loss.

A portion of the first floor at the front of the building was untouched by the fire but water had completed the damage begun by the flames. Floors were sagged and burned through and any furniture in the building a total loss.

It was the belief of the firemen that the blaze had started several hours before it was discovered and its origin is unknown. Overheated pipes or defective wiring were theories advanced.

The school was built in 1885 by district Number 21 of the town of West Rutland. Soon after 1890 it was taken over by the village and used as a combination high and graded school until about 10 years ago when the number of pupils became so large that new quarters were needed. The High school was then moved to the town hall where it still is housed.

The building this year accommodated 325 pupils in eight grades, with Miss Margaret Davine as principal and nine other teachers. There were 11 rooms, four on the first and second floors and three in the third story.

Somewhat to the disappointment of the children who yesterday were looking forward to an extended holiday arrangements have been made to continue school today. Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 will meet at the High school with solid session from 1:15 o'clock to 5 in the afternoon. The High school classes will meet at 8 o'clock in the morning beginning today.

For the present the three primary grades will not meet.

FEBRUARY 29, 1928.

## BURNING MEAT, PITCH CALL OUT FIREMEN

"Laddies" Answer 3 Alarms  
On Same Day; Two Sum-  
mons Being Needless.

The fire department answered three alarms yesterday, a burning tar barrel in the rear of the Combination Cash company store on Willow street and meat scorching on a stove in a basement on Wales street giving the trucks two runs besides the early morning trip to the blaze which damaged the Oakman electrical plant.

Office employees and clerks going to work had visions of a big fire in the heart of the business section yesterday morning at 8 o'clock when clouds of black smoke suddenly rose from the vicinity of the Combination store and three combination trucks and the ladder apparatus rushed through the streets in response to a summons from box 43, West and Edson streets. There were hundreds at the scene almost immediately but their curiosity soon was appeased when they discovered that tar which was being heated for use inside the store had caught fire. The crowd soon dispersed and by 9 o'clock the firemen were back at the city hall. No damage resulted.

### Family Dinner Burned.

A still alarm called out the trucks about 3:15 o'clock in the afternoon, when the rooms of the family of George W. Knight at 8 Wales street became filled with smoke and someone thought the building was afire. The source of the scare was soon traced to the kitchen stove where meat, put on to cook, had been forgotten, causing a big smudge.

### Fire-Plays Prank.

Flames played a queer prank at a fire which caused damage of about \$1000 in the combined storeroom and garage of Cyrus E. Oakman, electrical contractor, at 11 Merchants Row, early yesterday morning as previously stated by The Herald. After partially consuming a truck which stood near a heater not far from where the fire started, the blaze leaped over another truck, close by, and badly damaged a Packard touring car at the opposite end of the building. The paint was blistered and the glass in the doors of one side broken. All three vehicles were the property of Mr. Oakman.

The store was open for business yesterday, the flames having been extinguished with the use of chemicals before they had reached the large frame building, attached to the garage, in which Mr. Oakman lives and has his display room.

The fire did not break through the roof or sidewalls of the garage. Repairs will be made at once. The loss is partially covered by insurance.



MAY 8, 1928.

## KEROSENE IN STOVE ENDANGERS 8 LIVES

House Of George Short-sleeve Burns When He Starts Fire With Oil.

Fire, caused by the explosion of a coal stove, gutted the second floor and attic of the house at 127 Spruce street, occupied by George Shortleeve, an employe of the Howe Scale company, early yesterday morning, causing a damage of \$2500. All the household effects and clothing of the family were lost in the blaze.

It is stated that while Mr. Shortleeve was pouring kerosene into his early morning fire the coal stove exploded spreading flames all over the room. Shortleeve was badly burned around the head and face and received treatment at the Rutland hospital.

The fire spread so rapidly that the father and his seven motherless children were obliged to descend to the ground by a ladder from the roof of the piazza, an egress through the door was impossible.

Trucks 1 and 2 answered a telephone message at 6:14 o'clock and on arriving at the scene sent in a call from box 37, which brought No. 3 and the call men to the scene.

After a fight of about 20 minutes the men had the fire under control, confining the damage to the second floor and the attic. The ground floor, which is unoccupied, was damaged, only by water.

### Flee in Nightclothes.

The occupants had to flee the house in their nightclothes as no chance was given to dress. All the clothes were destroyed and \$15 in bills, belonging to one of the members of the family also was lost.

The children were taken to the homes of nearby neighbors.

The house, which belongs to John Ferraro of this city, was covered by insurance, but the furniture and effects of the Shortleeve had no coverage.

The fire was the worst that the local department has fought in some time.

### Boy Leaps From Window.

A large crowd, bound for work, gathered at the scene. One of the Shortleeve boys, excited by the fire, jumped from the piazza roof to the ground but was unhurt.

At 10 o'clock the firemen answered another alarm to the house of B. F. Coppins on Howe street, where they extinguished a fire caused by the lighting of a woodbox by a spark from the stove. About \$50 damage was caused.

## DODGE FIRECRACKERS IN STOREHOUSE BLAZE

Hosemen Face Regular Bombardment When Edson St. Building Takes Fire.

Facing exploding firecrackers, dodging the balls from bursting Roman candles, and fighting dense phosphorous smoke, the Rutland fire department yesterday morning extinguished a blaze in "the old Tower house" on Edson street, used by the Tuttle company. The firemen confined the flames to the room in which it had started and only slight damage was done to the building and its contents.

Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, who had been summoned from a sick bed to assist in extinguishing the blaze, stated yesterday that in his belief the fire started from the explosion of fireworks, which were stored in the building.

### Preble Compliments Men.

State Fire Marshal A. G. Preble of Burlington, who was in Rutland on an official visit and witnessed the fire, said last night: "It was one of the prettiest bits of fire fighting that I have seen in the state of Vermont and great credit is due to the Rutland department."

When the apparatus arrived on the scene the room in which the fire was blazing was an inferno of bursting fire crackers and smoke it is said. The men donned smoke masks and had the fire out, within a half an hour after the alarm had been sent in. Two streams of water were used.

### C. W. Pennington Injured.

Charles W. Pennington, an employe of the Tuttle company, and a call fireman, sustained a number of burns around the face and hands and was removed to the Rutland hospital. He left the institution yesterday afternoon. His condition is not considered serious.

Thousands of books, owned by Charles E. Tuttle, were stored in the four-story building. It is expected that the damage to these will not exceed \$400. Records of the Tuttle company for the last 40 years, which were stored in an upper story, were not harmed. The water damage to the building was confined to the basement.

A large crowd witnessed the blaze, which was the first menacing fire in the business district in a long time.

## AUTOS CATCH AFIRE CHIMNEY BLAZES UP

Fire in the attic of a house at 62 River street and two automobile blazes called out the Rutland fire department yesterday morning, late yesterday afternoon, and last night.

Fire caused by a defective chimney broke out at 6:30 o'clock in the attic of the house on River street in which Salvatore Colodonato and Herbert H. Pelkey reside with their families. The fire had a good start when the department arrived, but was quickly extinguished. The damage was slight.

In the morning the men were called to fight a fire caused by a short circuit in an automobile owned by Joseph Cioffi of 257 West street. The damage was slight.

At 10:30 o'clock last night one of the trucks were called to extinguish a fire in a roadster near the Grimm factory. A short circuit caused the blaze.

## Fight \$15,000 Blaze In Huge Apartment House

Fire Starts in Kingsley Court Basement; Eight Families Driven to Street; Firemen Narrowly Escape Falling Debris; Child Endangered.

### SAVE BUILDING IN FOUR-HOUR BATTLE

Rutland firemen battled for four hours yesterday morning and afternoon with a blaze that started in a cellar rubbish heap in the Kingsley Court apartments at 73 Pine street and caused damage variously estimated at from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Eight families were driven into the streets by the flames, a small child was almost suffocated and several members of the fire department narrowly escaped serious injury from falling slate and ceilings. Heavy smoke handicapped the fighters.

The fire was discovered by nearly all of the apartment house occupants at the same time. Mrs. Ralph Shangraw, who, with her husband, occupies an apartment on the third floor, called the fire department by telephone at 10:45 o'clock.

Knowing that a fire in the apartment building was dangerous, Chief Alfred H. Koltonski ordered all apparatus to respond and arrived to find smoke pouring out of the eaves around the top of the building.

### Use Smoke Masks.

Hoping to stop the blaze in the cellar, the chief and one of his men donned smoke masks and with a chemical line went down into the basement. There they found a regular inferno of smoke, gas and flames. The fire, however, had so great a start that it had swept up through water pipe openings and got into the partitions in all three stories.

Faced with fighting a "blind" fire, the men donned masks and taking axes, opened up holes in the partitions and laid five lines of hose. For hours they fought a stubborn battle with the flames, the last spark being extinguished about 2 o'clock.

Mrs. Claude L. Cook, wife of the apartment house janitor, said that the first sign of the fire came about 10:45 o'clock. "I went down to fix the furnace in the basement about five minutes before the alarm was sent in," Mrs. Cook said.

"At that time there was no sign of any flames. Five minutes later, I started to go into the basement and was almost strangled by a cloud of dark smoke which swept up as I opened the cellar door. Hurrying back into my apartment, I found my 15-month-old baby sitting in a chair where I had left him, almost suffocated. I picked him up and rushed to the outside."

### Forced Down Back Way.

Meanwhile other occupants were rushing out-of-doors. Mrs. R. A. Keizer, occupant of a first floor apartment, Mrs. J. C. Phalen and Mrs. D. A. Whitmarsh, second floor occupants, and Mrs. Hurd, whose family occupies the first floor, reached the outside without any difficulty.

Miss Monica and Miss Frances Collins and Mrs. Ralph Shangraw, occupants of apartments on the third floor, experienced much more difficulty.

able, on account of the suffocating smoke, to reach safety through the front entrance, they were forced to go down a back stairway, almost blinded by the heavy smoke clouds.

As some firemen fought the flames, volunteers and other members of the department began to carry furniture and other contents of the apartments into the open. In some apartments nearly all of the contents were carried out.

The fire was confined mostly to partitions, breaking out badly in only four or five places. The interior of the building was damaged considerably by smoke and water.

Several members of the department had narrow escapes. Fireman Jack Seward entered a room on the second floor. Almost suffocated with smoke, he opened a window and called down, telling his comrades that his only means of escape was a ladder, which was soon put up.

### Firemen Knocked Down.

Fireman Frank Rice and Call Fireman John O'Brien narrowly escaped injury when a ceiling in a closet on the second floor collapsed, sending them falling to the first floor. An iron helmet saved George Peck, 3rd, from injuries to his head when part of the ceiling on the second floor dropped onto him. Falling slate endangered other members of the department.

Fighting the fire from all sections of the huge dwelling, the men had the flames under control about 1:15 o'clock. Spectators and tenement owners were unanimous in their praise of the department's work saving the building.

While the firemen were still fighting the fire, a number of reports were going around about an explosion which was said to have taken place just before the fire was discovered. One tenant of the building said the boiler had exploded, but Chief Koltonski discovered that this was not so, as the furnace was still functioning. There were other reports that the explosion occurred in another part of the cellar. Fire Chief Koltonski stated that if there was any explosion it was caused by gas in the cellar.

The chief estimated the damage at between \$10,000 and \$12,000. Fire insurance adjusters stated it might run about \$15,000.

Apartments owned by James Donnelly on the third floor and the Hurd family on the first floor were not damaged by fire or water.

J. Frank Kimball of Tampa, Fla., is the owner of the building.



## HULETT BLOCK FIRE DAMAGE IS \$15,000

**Flames Sweep Through Partitions; Put Out After 45-Minute Fight.**

Fire of unknown origin swept through partitions on the second floor of the Hulett block on Merchants Row about 12:15 o'clock this morning, causing damage estimated at \$15,000. The blaze was discovered by Isador Backon, who has a tailor shop on the second floor of the building.

Mr. Backon was awakened from sleep by the sound of the crackling of flames. He ran to the third floor and saw flames leaping out from the partitions over the ceiling of the second story.

The Rutland fire department, summoned by an alarm from Box 47, answered with all equipment. Handicapped by dense smoke and leaking gas, the firemen battled the blaze by cutting into the partitions with axes. The flames had a good start before they arrived. The ladder truck was used to reach the top of the building. The firemen went over the roof and entered the section where the fire was blazing through windows in the rear of the building.

After a 45-minute fight the firemen put out the blaze. The office of Drs. Fred B. and Celia R. Brown, chiropractors, located on the second floor, was practically ruined by smoke, flames and water. Other business places on that floor were: The Lewis F. Brehmer studio, Corpron Variety Shoppe, Isador Backon tailor shop and Dr. J. J. Corley, dentist. Part of the Backon shop was damaged by water. Damage to the other establishments could not be ascertained. The Combination Cash Store and Liggett's Drug store are on the first floor. Both suffered severe water damage.

On the third floor are a number of storerooms in which wood, paper and other materials are kept. Had the fire reached that part of the building it would have burned like tinder, Fire Chief A. H. Koltonski said.

A huge crowd watched the firemen.

## LOSS IN SATURDAY'S BLAZE ABOUT \$5000

**Woolworth Building Fire Second on Merchants Row in Four Days.**

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski yesterday estimated that damage of about \$5000 was caused by the fire, which swept through the attic of the Woolworth block on Merchants Row about 11 o'clock Saturday morning. It was the second fire in the heart of the business section within four days and the fourth fire that the department had battled within 24 hours. Early Wednesday morning damage of \$15,000 resulted from a blaze in the Hulett block, next door.

The firemen were called by telephone at 11:05 o'clock Saturday morning. An alarm was also sent in from Box 47. Facing almost the same conditions that prevailed in the Hulett block blaze, the men encountered leaking gas and dense smoke in their attempt to reach the center of the flames. Merchants Row was clouded with the heavy smoke. Two lines of hose were used. After a battle which lasted for nearly an hour the blaze was extinguished.

### Lodge Property Damaged.

Furnishings belonging to Phyllis chapter, Order of Eastern Star, which were stored in the attic, were destroyed by fire and water. The water leaked down into the rooms on the second floor occupied by the G. A. R. also down into the F. W. Woolworth store on the ground floor. Milton Feather, manager, said last night that damage to the merchandise was slight, but that the furnishings of the store were badly damaged. The Brehmer music store, offices of Dr. Walter J. Scott and Dr. Harry R. Ryan and the law office of Lawrence, Stafford & O'Brien were not damaged. W. B. Kennedy, tailor, stated that damage to his establishment would amount to about \$75.

### Hundreds Look On.

Several hundred persons watched the firemen as they climbed the aerial ladder to the top of the building. A salvage crew laid coverings over the merchandise in the F. B. Howard jewelry store and prevented any water damage to that place.

Chief Koltonski made an examination of the building in an attempt to discover the cause of the blaze. He learned that there had been a gas leak in the attic and that some persons had been attempting to repair it. Whether they dropped a match or a cigarette butt is not known.

## Captain Injured As Fire Truck and Sedan Collide

**Three Members of Crew Hastening to Blaze Hurlled to Street When Terrific Crash Occurs at Wales and West Streets.**

### PLEASURE CAR DRIVEN BY FIREMAN

Capt. Leo F. Stone was painfully injured, two other members of the crew of Combination Engine No. 3 of the Rutland fire department miraculously escaped death or serious injury, and one passenger in a sedan was badly bruised when the fire truck, while answering a call early yesterday afternoon, collided with the pleasure car at Wales and West streets and then crashed into a telegraph pole. The sedan, driven by Fireman Percy E. Wood of the Central station, went hurtling into a tree.

As the fire truck crashed into the pole, Driver Edward L. Earle was tossed over the windshield and hood, substitute Fireman Raymond McGarry, who was on the rear end, was hurled many feet along the highway and Captain Stone was caught between the pole and the truck and thrown to the ground.

### Truck Had Right of Way.

The truck was on its way to a chimney fire at 177 Lincoln avenue. Earle was driving north on Wales street and Wood was operating his car east on West street. The traffic light at the intersection was against the fire truck, but Earle proceeded, having the right of way under the state law. Wood also continued and the two machines met directly under the traffic light. Wood stated that he did not hear the siren. It was a strange prank of fate that sent the truck, which Wood is accustomed to drive while on duty, into his own pleasure car. He was off duty.

As the two machines met, Earle swung the truck far to his right and Wood turned his car toward his left. Wood's machine hurtled into a tree on the corner of the Longfellow school campus and the fire truck struck a telegraph pole about four feet from the tree.

### Stone Refuses Aid.

Driver Earle, dazed from the terrific impact, when he was hurled over the windshield and hood onto the macadam road, maintained presence of mind enough to rush to the St. James' hotel, telephone for a doctor and an ambulance and then dispatch another truck to the scene of the fire. The blaze was quickly extinguished. McGarry, whose body slid along the concrete for many feet, was badly shaken up.

Captain Stone was the most seriously injured of the firemen. Although the ligaments of his right leg were torn away from the knee, he refused to leave the scene, against the advice of a doctor, until he was certain that all things necessary had been taken care of. Last night he was at his home, suffering great pain from injuries to his leg and arm.

Demyre J. Ramp, Jr., of 17 Temple street, a passenger in the Wood car, was taken to the hospital, where it was found that he had sustained a bad bruise to his collarbone. He was at his home last night. Other passengers in the sedan were: Reginald Noe of 63 Grove street and John Ferraro of 12 Hopkins street. Wood and the other two passengers escaped with only slight bruises.

### Sedan Hurlled in Air.

Witnesses of the accident stated that the Wood sedan was hurled into the air when it was sideswiped by the truck. The windshield was shattered, the left front tire flattened, the bumper crumpled by impact with the tree, the right front wheel broken, the left fender crushed and the hood smashed in. The bolts on the right front wheel were sheered off as if by a knife.

The left front fender, wheel, light and running board of the truck were badly damaged, the left side of the seat crushed, the hood jammed in and the front springs broken. The radiator was badly damaged. Chief Alfred H. Koltonski had no comment to make last night, preferring to wait until he had made a thorough investigation. Patrolman Robert L. Keith and members of the Rutland police department investigated the crash.



## \$1500 FIRE DAMAGE ON MERCHANTS ROW

Flames Gut Garage, Barn  
and Rear of Building  
Housing Food Shop.

Damage amounting to about \$1500 was caused by a fire of unknown origin to a barn, garages and rear of a building at 17 Merchants Row last night. A. W. Gorton of 11 Mansfield place owns the structure which is occupied by the Mothers' Food Shop. The flames which had a good start, were noticed by three men who rang in Box 46 at about 11:15 o'clock. Several lines of hose were used by the firemen, whose work was hampered by dense smoke. Aside from the buildings, the fire damaged a considerable stock of food in the bakery and the smoke spread throughout the structure. The interiors of the barn and garages were gutted.

A light delivery truck which was in one of the garages, was backed out before it was damaged. Firemen rescued a small dog from the rear of the main structure. It had been overcome by the smoke, but soon revived after reaching the fresh air.

## FIRE MENACES LASH WEST STREET STORE

\$1000 Damage Caused as  
Flames Rage in Third  
Story of Building.

Fire, which was discovered by John Mott of Plain street about 8 o'clock last night, caused damage estimated at \$1000 in the third-story storage room of the Lash Furniture company store on West street last night. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said that he believed that the blaze was caused by careless smoking.

Mott and two other young men were talking by the store and noticed a red glare in the windows of the third story. They watched the room for a few minutes and saw burning paper floating about. An alarm, the first of the year, was sent in from box 44 at Evelyn and West streets.

When the firemen arrived the entire building was filled with smoke and a blaze was raging fiercely. Fighting their way to the scene of the flames through smoke, which almost blinded them, the men soon had one stream on the fire and the blaze which, if it had been discovered later, might have wiped out the entire wooden building, owned by Joseph Minter of 66 North Main street, was soon under control. Firemen Protect Furniture.

The salvage crew, a new group organized by Fire Chief Koltonski, covered furniture on the second floor with blankets and prevented water damage on that story. A large amount of new furniture, stored on the third floor, was scorched and burned by the fire and damaged by water. Benjamin W. Lash, proprietor of the store, was unable to give an estimate of the damage, which he said was partly covered by insurance. The damage to the building was slight.

Mr. Lash told Chief Koltonski that no smoking was permitted on the third floor and that when he went home at 6 o'clock there were no signs of any fire. A huge crowd lined West street and watched the firemen work. The ladder truck was used to reach the second story.

## FIREMEN SEEK CAUSE OF "MYSTERY BLAZE"

Fire Which Destroyed West  
Street Dwelling Being  
Thoroughly Probed.

In an attempt to explain some of the mysterious circumstances surrounding a blaze that destroyed a frame dwelling house at 275 West street early Saturday morning, officials of the local fire department yesterday afternoon and last night spent considerable time searching the ruins and interviewing those who might be able to throw some light on the case.

It was about 2:30 o'clock Saturday morning when the house, which was owned by Mrs. Theresa Burke of Geno avenue, burst into flames. A minute or two later a general alarm was sent in from Box No. 19. After another few seconds a resident of the neighborhood telephoned in an alarm. Last night it had not yet been determined who sent in the box alarm.

### Cause Not Determined.

Before the firemen arrived on the scene the reflection from the blaze had started hundreds of persons on their way to West street, believing that a factory or some other large building was aflame. When the firemen reached the house the entire structure was burning and they concentrated their efforts on saving two adjoining barns and nearby houses. So successful were they that a shed within two feet of the Preville house on the east was not even scorched.

In less than half an hour the three streams of water that were played on the burning house, had extinguished the flames. A hurried investigation was then conducted, but nothing was discovered that threw any light on the origin of the blaze.

Yesterday afternoon Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and Capt. Ralph Bean returned to the house and made a thorough examination of the remains. The four walls were standing, but the roof had caved in and the inside was merely a mass of charred timbers.

Mrs. Burke volunteered the following information:

The house was purchased by her about six years ago. Its last occupant was Jack Burke, who died of pneumonia last fall. He had rented the place furnished. Since his death it has been unoccupied. Recently Mrs. Burke had started reconstruction work on the house. The roof had been raised and a second story was being added. The foundation was also being rebuilt.

The house was amply covered by insurance and just a few weeks ago Mrs. Burke had increased the amount of coverage to take care of the additional investment represented by the reconstruction plans.

Between 7:30 and 8 o'clock Friday evening Mrs. Burke and a friend had made a complete inspection of the structure, even going up onto the second floor. She said she saw no sign of fire or smoke at that time.

Chief Koltonski, after his inspection of the ruins, said there were still several mysterious angles to the case that he had not yet straightened out. The fire apparently started in several places at once, but its center was around the porch on the west side. Mrs. Burke advanced the opinion that sparks from a locomotive on the embankment just to the rear of the house might have caused the blaze, but Chief Koltonski pointed out that the sparks could not have landed on the porch nor in the various parts of the building where the fire was raging the worst when he arrived on the scene Saturday morning.

The loss was placed by the chief and Mrs. Burke at between \$2000 and \$3000. There was a small amount of furniture and some personal property on the first floor, which was destroyed by the fire and water.

## HARDWARE STORE IS DAMAGED BY FLAMES

Loss \$3500 in Early Morn-  
ing Fire at Billings &  
Davis Establishment.

Business blocks in the heart of the downtown section of the city were endangered early yesterday morning when a fire broke out in the basement of the Billings & Davis store at 37 Center street and caused damage, largely to stock, estimated at \$3500. The firemen made a quick stop of the blaze which was in a dangerous locality because of the nature of the merchandise stored in the basement.

It is believed that the blaze started from spontaneous combustion in a barrel containing oily sawdust used in cleaning the floor upstairs.

### Firemen Called on Phone.

First warning of the fire reached station 1 by means of a phone call about 7:15 from some unknown person and the siren, sounding a few minutes later from box 43 called out all of the trucks because of the fire's location.

Laying one line of hose, the firemen succeeded in confining the blaze to the northwest corner of the basement. The flames by that time, were shooting out of a rear basement window. Much inflammable material, such as paint, linseed oil and turpentine caught fire and sent forth a dense smoke, one beam and walls at the north end of the building were charred.

### Heat Becomes Intense.

So great was the heat in the basement, that solder cans melted at the front of the store, 25 feet from the seat of the fire. Smoke poured into the salesroom on the ground floor and even reached the restaurant of Miss Anna S. Kickham on the second floor of the adjoining structure.

The building, a two-story structure, is owned by City Treasurer Will F. Davis and Seymour Billings, joint partners in the business. While there was rather heavy damage from smoke, little water damage was done, it is stated.

## STORES AND OFFICES MENACED BY FLAMES

Early Morning Fire Calls  
Department to Building  
at 76-80 West St.

Fire yesterday morning, which is said to have started in an electric transformer, threatened the block at 76-80 West street, owned by the Gail Lumber company and housing two stores and several offices. Firemen estimated the damage at several hundred dollars.

An alarm was turned in from Box 41 West and Wales streets, by John Taylor of 10 Elm street, who saw clouds of smoke pouring out through windows in the upper stories of the building, while on his way to work at 6:30 o'clock.

The fire started in the basement in the rear of the building. It spread through the partitions to the second floor. The building was filled with smoke. In order to work effectively, the firefighters were forced to cut through a thick plaster wall. They soon had the fire under control.

### Offices Smoke-Filled.

The blaze did considerable damage in the Lincoln Iron works stock room in the rear of the building, but officials of the concern were unable to give an estimate of the loss last night. The building was also damaged. The Vermont State Chamber of Commerce rooms and the Vermont Census bureau offices in the second floor were filled with smoke but not seriously damaged. The Lessor pharmacy on the first floor sustained a slight smoke damage. The Lincoln Iron works wholesale plumbers' supplies and specialties store was also filled with smoke.

Firemen stated that the blaze probably was caused by a defect in an electrical transformer.

JUNE 26, 1930.

## Visiting Chiefs Answer Alarm Of Fire, 200 Strong

It is seldom that more than one fire chief makes his appearance at a blaze, but when nearly 200 appear, it's unusual.

Last evening at 6 o'clock, defective wiring started a fire in a garage at 70 Forest street, owned by Daniel J. Healy. At the first blast of the alarm whistle the Rutland fire department and nearly 200 of the leading chiefs in New England, here in convention, started for the scene.

It was necessary to string two lines of hose. The Rutland fire fighters had the blaze under control in a few minutes, with damage of less than \$100 and were complimented highly by the visiting chiefs for their fine "stop" of the fire.



## FIRE CAUSES \$800 DAMAGE AT GARAGE

**Flames Break Out From  
Undetermined Source  
at Keenan Plant.**

Awakened by cries of "fire! fire!" outside of the door of the Central station, members of the Rutland fire department were aroused about 2.45 o'clock Saturday morning to be informed by a motorist that the Keenan Tire and Battery company station on South Main street was in flames. The blaze gave the men an hour's tussle. The damage will amount to about \$800.

Reid LeFevre, manager of Honey-boy Hughes, Granville, N. Y., boxer, was driving to his home at Manchester, from this city, when he noticed flames licking the inside of the battery station.

Not wishing to take time to look for a telephone, LeFevre turned his automobile around and headed for the fire station. Unable to gain entrance he stood outside and shouted "Fire! Fire!" The members of the department, thinking that the station was ablaze, hurried into their clothing and came down to the lower floor ready for action. Then the reason for the disturbance was explained.

### Callmen Summoned.

As it was necessary to lay a long line of hose, it was decided to turn in an alarm from Box 33 at Curtis street and Horton avenue, to summon the call men. Many from the city attended the blaze.

The inside of the building was gutted, about \$200 worth of tires were ruined and a number of batteries spoiled by smoke and water. The building was not burned to the ground. Harry Keenan, proprietor of the station, had been in Whitehall, N. Y., for some time and Frey Taylor of Rutland was in charge. Firemen were investigating the cause of the blaze yesterday.

## GILRAIN HOME FIRE CAUSES \$3000 LOSS

**Blaze in South Main St.  
House Caused By Neg-  
lected Flatiron.**

Damage of more than \$3000 was caused at the home of James P. Gilrain, 52 South Main street at about 1.30 o'clock this morning by a fire said to have started from an electric flatiron which had been left on all night. The flames threatened the nearby home of Dennis J. McCue.

The fire had a good start before it was discovered by Gilrain, who was awakened by the smell of smoke. The flames gutted the kitchen of the house and worked up the outside partition, under the eaves and into the attic. Dense smoke hampered the work of firemen who were called by a box alarm.

## FIRE DRIVES THREE FAMILIES OUTDOORS

**Flames and Smoke Cause  
About \$500 Damage to  
Grove Street House.**

Fire of unknown origin about 9.40 o'clock last night caused damage estimated at \$500 to the three-story house at 74 Grove street, owned by Mrs. Julia T. Clifford of 45 Washington street.

The house is occupied by the families of Samuel J. Gibbs, D. E. Horton and Freeman York. All were driven to the street by the flames and smoke and some of the occupants removed their household effects.

All of the fire department trucks answered a telephone call which preceded the whistle alarm. The call was sent in by W. F. Prieur, whose home adjoins the burned structure.

### Blaze in Attic.

The blaze was confined to the attic, where mattresses and furniture had been stored by the owner. The burning mattresses cast billows of smoke through the windows and roof of the house, making it difficult for the firemen to work.

A crowd of about 2000 persons gathered at the corner of Williams and Grove street, following the alarm. Searchlights were played on the upper story, where the smoke continued to pour forth for about an hour.

Mrs. D. E. Horton, who resides in the central part of the house, where the fire is thought to have started, stated that she had heard what sounded like an explosion and then the crackling of flames. She ran to the street, but an alarm had already been sent in by Mr. Prieur.

MARCH 3, 1931.

## Ashes In Basket Set Fire To Wall

**Blaze in Partition Causes Dam-  
age of \$200 at Home of G. M.  
Costello, 74 East Street.**

Fire, which caused about \$200 damage to the home of George M. Costello, 74 East street, about 2.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon was believed to have started in a basket of ashes which had been placed on the porch.

The fire department was called by box 35. Two lines of chemical were all that was necessary to extinguish the blaze.

Flames were principally confined to the outside partition. They worked up on the inside between the clapboards, getting up to the cornice in an upper room.

Smoke and chemical damaged the interior of the kitchen and upstairs room, but the flames did not reach the interior of the house. The upstairs room had recently been redecorated and will have to be done over again because of the smoke and chemical.

MONDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 24, 1930.

## \$3000 DAMAGE DONE BY WEEK-END FIRES

**Blaze in Scale Company  
Barn Most Serious of  
Four Battled Here.**

More than \$3000 damage was done by fires in the city over the week-end. Blazes in a Howe Scale company stable, in two automobiles and in grass on a Baxter street lot kept the firemen busy Saturday and Sunday.

At about 3.30 o'clock Saturday morning the men were awakened by Marvin Noyes, a taxi driver, who saw the flames at the Howe Scale company stable, as he drove over River street bridge. The fire had made good headway in the upper part of the building before the trucks arrived. A motor vehicle was pushed out before it was possible for the men to lead to safety a horse which was nearly suffocated by the dense smoke in its stall.

Several streams of water were used in extinguishing the flames which did considerable damage to the second floor and roof of the barn. The water was also used in protecting another building about three feet away.

### Doctor's Car Ruined.

A short circuit in the wiring of a sedan owned by Dr. Charles H. Swift of Grove street, set fire at about 1.27 o'clock yesterday to gasoline in the carburetor. The flames spread throughout the car making it almost a total loss, about \$750. The fire department was called and chemical was used to keep the fire from damaging the garage. Dr. Swift had but a few moments before driven the car into the garage and taken out another machine.

Another automobile was a source of a call to the fire department at 11.14 o'clock yesterday morning. Only about \$15 damage was done to the vehicle which was owned by D. L. Selleck of Crown street. The uptown station truck and crew answered this call.

The firemen were called to put out a grass fire on Baxter street at 1.33 Saturday afternoon. No damage was caused by this blaze.

## FIRE LOSS \$1000 AT 50 KILLINGTON AVE.

Damage, estimated at nearly \$1000 was caused yesterday afternoon, shortly after 12 o'clock, when fire swept through a partition of a house at 50 Killington avenue, occupied by the families of Lawrence McGuirk and David M. Keefe. The fire department was summoned by telephone and then an alarm was sent out from Box 38.

It was the second box alarm of the day. At 6.19 o'clock in the morning the department was summoned by an alarm from Box 54 to fight fire which broke out in two rooms of the house at 74 Traverse place occupied by Genaro Migliore. The flames started in an unoccupied section of the house and its cause is a mystery.

The third call of the day came, when the firemen were called back to 50 Killington avenue, when the occupants thought that the blaze had broken out anew.



# Fires Break Out In Many Parts Of City and Suburbs

## GRASS AND BRUSH

Alarming Condition Due to Lack of Rain, Says Fire Chief; Firemen Kept Busy; All Apparatus in Use.

## FOREST MENACED

Several Houses Damaged; Barn Burned; Pastureland Is Badly Seared; Appeal Made to Public.

Rutland's municipal forest at the watershed in Mendon and Sherburne was endangered, flames threatened horsebarns at the Rutland fairgrounds, two houses were damaged, a barn was destroyed and many acres of brush and pastureland burned over, as fires yesterday broke out in all sections of the city and vicinity.

Lack of rain has caused the woods and grasslands to become as dry as tinder and so serious is the situation that Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltowski has given orders to every member of his department to be ready for emergency. All employees of the department of public works have also been asked to be ready to help in case of danger.

Not in many years has the city been faced with such a fire peril according to Chief Koltowski, who, last night requested the residents of Rutland and vicinity to do everything in their power to prevent grass and brush fires from starting.

A brisk wind, which fanned the flames yesterday, added difficulty to the work of the firemen.

Yesterday's first alarm came shortly after 9.30 o'clock, when officials

of the Tidewater Oil company notified the fire department that a brisk fire was burning in the woods near their plant on West street. The firemen extinguished the blaze with brooms.

### Three Fires at One Time.

Between 11 o'clock and 12.30 every piece of fire fighting apparatus in the city was tied up in battling three separate fires and a serious situation might have developed if there had been other alarms at that time.

At 11.08 o'clock the firemen were called back to West street to again battle a brush fire, which had broken out near the Tidewater Oil company's plant. They were still fighting the flames there, when an alarm from Box 73 called the department to 311 West street, where a barn, owned by Lewis Ricci had burst into flames and was threatening adjoining houses.

### Houses Endangered.

Just as the alarm came into the station, the fireman on desk duty answered a telephone call, which summoned the firemen to 119 Forest street, where flames were sweeping through brush and grass towards several houses.

Truck No. 3 was fighting the Tidewater fire, No. 2 went to Forest street and No. 1 and the ladder to 311 West street.

When the firemen arrived at West street the blaze in the barn was out of control and the rear end of a house, owned by Patsy LaVacci was in flames. The men strung two lines of hose and confined their efforts to saving the house. The flames shot from the barn through a window in the upper story of the house and in a few seconds the bed clothing in the room, was ablaze.

While one group of firemen was extinguishing the blaze in the rear of the house and preventing the flames from spreading from the barn, another group went into the upper floor and put out the fire in the bedroom.

Meanwhile the firemen were having a hard battle with the flames, which were sweeping through the brush and grass on Forest street. They won their fight with the flames after a half hour's battle.

### Firemen Called Out Again.

About 12.30 o'clock all of the apparatus was back to the station, but not for long.

A dump fire was discovered at Dana avenue and when the men arrived the valuable horse barns at the Rutland Fairgrounds were being gravely threatened. The fire from the dump had spread into some tall grass and the flames were eagerly licking their way towards the horsebarns.

It was necessary there to string a line of hose to win the fight against the flames.

At 3.27 o'clock in the afternoon the department was called to Grove street, where a grass fire was raging. They extinguished the fire in a short time.

### Chemical Tank Employed.

At 3.46 o'clock the firemen were called to 92 Baxter street, where a fire had started in the porch of the home occupied by Alfred F. Delle

and James R. Derry and was spreading towards the upper part of the house. Using a 40-gallon chemical tank the men put out the fire with out much damage being caused.

## FIRE IN 'BLIND ATTIC' CAUSES \$200 LOSS

Department Goes to Howe Street, Answering Year's First Box Alarm.

Fire, due to a defective chimney, last night caused damage of about \$200 in a shoe repair shop at Howe and Forest streets, owned by Carmine Abatiello. A house, built onto the shop, was not damaged by the flames.

The firemen were summoned by an alarm from Box 53, the first box alarm of the year. When they arrived the flames had spread from the partition near the chimney to the "blind attic" of the building and was gaining headway rapidly. Under the direction of Assistant Chief Ralph Beane, one line of hose was laid and the contents of a 40-gallon chemical tank were played on the flames. The fire was under control in about 15 minutes.

At 1.14 o'clock in the afternoon the firemen were called to 118 Forest street, where flames from a defective chimney had started to sweep through a partition of the house. The damage was about \$50.

DECEMBER 24, 1931.

## CHILD, 8, RESCUES BABY FROM FLAMES

Mrs. J. H. Demasi, Mother, Burned When Home Is Attacked By Flames.

Mrs. John H. Demasi of 248 West street was badly burned and her three-weeks-old daughter was snatched from her crib by the child's eight-year-old sister, Maria, just in time to save her from the flames or possible suffocation as fire swept the living-room and adjoining bedroom of the house yesterday morning about 8.45 o'clock. The loss to the building and furnishings was about \$500.

The fire is believed to have been started by children playing on the floor with matches. Flames caught in draperies and spread rapidly from the livingroom into the bedroom. Firemen answering an alarm from Box 19 found flames making rapid progress.

Mrs. Demasi, in attempting to beat back the flames from the bedroom and reach her infant daughter, sustained painful burns to her neck and arms. Her hair was also singed. The eight-year-old child risked being burned to save her tiny sister.

### Smoke Damages Store.

Hot ashes in the basement of the Fishman store on Merchants Row at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon were the source of a call to the firemen. Little damage was done by fire but considerable smoke found its way into the main salesroom of the store.

The firemen were roused from their beds at 3.24 o'clock yesterday morning, to answer a call from the house of Patrick F. Sullivan, 11 Royce street, where a slight blaze had been started from an electric heater in the livingroom fireplace. Little damage resulted.

## BUILDING DESTROYED BY FIRST GRASS FIRE

Damage of \$300 Done By Initial Ground Blaze on City Park Land.

Damage of more than \$300 was caused in the City park section here yesterday by the first grass fire of the season. After burning over a large section of brushland, the flames gutted a one-story workshop owned by Frank Preville of Preville avenue.

The fire department was called from box 75 at Crescent street and Geno avenue, about 1.15 o'clock. A rather stiff wind hindered the firemen who were already hampered by a covering of tin about the building. Smoke was too dense inside to allow the men to enter and it was impossible to get water on the fire from the outside.

A large stock of tools, partly constructed pieces of handiwork and articles of furniture, contained in the building, were either completely destroyed by the flames or badly damaged by smoke and water.

### Warning by Chief.

Chief Alfred H. Koltowski stated that the origin of the fire is unknown. However, it is thought that boys playing with matches either accidentally or intentionally set the grass afire and were unable or unwilling to control the progress of the flames. He warned against promiscuous setting of grass fires about the city, urging persons who intend to burn off areas to take every precaution to keep the fire from spreading or getting beyond their control.



APRIL 15, 1931.

# To Rebuild After \$250,000 Fire At Montgomery Ward

## BADLAM PLANS

Lives of 3 Firemen Men-  
aced in 5 1/2-Hr. Fight  
With Flames; 200 Gal-  
lons of Denatured Al-  
cohol Explode.

## WEST SIDE AIDS

While firemen and police last night were keeping watch to prevent further outbreak of the raging fire, which yesterday morning destroyed the Montgomery Ward & company building and stock of goods at 25 Merchants Row at an estimated loss of \$250,000, plans for immediate reconstruction were being discussed by G. E. L. Badlam of Center street, the owner, and the local officials of the mercantile concern.

The fire, which almost cost the lives of three firemen and for a short time threatened a portion of the east side of Merchants Row and part of Cottage street, was discovered by Carroll W. McCloskey, a Rutland Herald mail clerk shortly after 3.30 o'clock yesterday morning.

When an explosion rocked the building about 6 o'clock and turned it into a roaring furnace, help was sent from West Rutland to aid the smoke-choked Rutland fire fighters. Cause of the fire is still listed as "unknown."

Clouds of smoke seen by McCloskey pouring through the windows on the lower floor of the Montgomery Ward store were the first indications of the worst fire that Rutland has experienced in more than a decade.

### Police Turn In Alarm.

Aroused by the sight he ran to the West street-Merchants Row corner and notified Policeman William Vondette and Fordyce A. Wissell, who turned in the alarm. When the department arrived no flames could be seen, but large clouds of black smoke, that inflamed the lungs of the firefighters, were pouring from the basement. When Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski looked over the situation and saw that his department had a real battle on its hands, he turned in a second alarm for every call and permanent fireman on the city's list.

There were no windows or doors on the north and south sides of the building and it was necessary to fight the flames from the east and west sides and the roof. The windows in the rear were covered with iron bars and it was necessary to remove them before the firemen could get into the building on that side—in which the fire at that time was centered.

The men stormed into the building with the black smoke pouring into their faces and attempted to find the center of the blaze. Hundreds of automobile tires in the basement were aflame by that time and the strongest light could not pierce the darkness.

### J. T. Cocklin Overcome.

The men had been in the building only a short while, when James T. Cocklin of South street, one of the oldest call firemen, fell to the floor, almost suffocated by the smoke. His mates picked him up and carried him unconscious to the outer air. The department inhalator was used to revive him and, in a serious condition, he was taken to the Knights of Columbus clubhouse, across the street from the burning store, where he received medical treatment. Doctors, who attended him, said that he had "a close call." His condition was much improved last night.

By 4.30 o'clock the firemen had five streams of water on the blaze and it looked as though it would be put under control within a short time. However the men were still unable to enter the store without danger of immediate suffocation and it was necessary to direct the fight from the outside and from the roof.

For an hour the firemen kept up their battle and as the sun began to come up from behind the hills, hundreds of spectators watching the blaze began to feel that the battle was nearly over. Such was not the case however.

### Denatured Alcohol Explodes.

There were nearly 200 gallons of denatured alcohol in the basement and before the firemen were aware of what happened the flames reached the highly inflammable mixture and an explosion that "rocked the street" followed. The gases released by that explosion caused a series of blasts throughout the building and from then on the situation took a more serious turn.

Firemen James J. Rice and J. Arthur Olson were on the roof at that time, sending a stream down through one of the holes. When the explosion occurred they felt the roof rise and fall under their feet. Then they heard a terrific roar as the flames smashed madly all through the building. Rice shouted to Olson to run to the front and see what had happened. The explosion had blown out all of the windows on the second story and a wall of flame eight feet high, stretching far out towards the street was terrifying spectators in front of the building.

The firemen below, noting the plight of their mates on the top of the building shouted frantically to them to come down immediately.

Olson ran back and informed Rice of their predicament. The section of the roof on which they were standing was about to give away and they could feel the warning tremors beneath their feet. In front of them was the flame wall and below them was a roaring furnace.

### Rice Slides Down Ladder.

Leaving their line in the hole in the roof they ran to the front of the building. Chief Koltonski and many on the ground believed that both firemen were doomed. Rice plunged through the flames with his arms over his face and reached the huge aerial ladder stretching to the roof. The flames were all around him as he placed his foot on the first rung. He was nearly suffocated by the gases and was about to let go and drop, when the men below poured two streams of water directly on his body. Revived he placed his arms on the side of the ladder and on his stomach slid down the rungs. His face and hands were scorched.

Olson was next. He came through the fire wall and the streams of water played around his body as he followed Rice's example and slid down the rungs. It was a narrow escape from death for both of the fire fighters.

Revived by some coffee, both men went back to take their places in the fire-fighting line, for at that time no man could be spared. The flames were licking the Salvation Army building and Capt. J. D. Hayman and his family, who had been serving coffee and doughnuts for the firemen, left their home and went into the street. The flames were also threatening the shop of Gust Ljungquist, Cottage street cabinet maker, the cupola of the building having caught fire. It was that time that Chief Koltonski asked Raymond R. Beane, former alderman, who was helping fight the flames, to call West Rutland for help. In the front of the building the chief arranged a two-way flammable stream, using the pumps on the hydrant at West street and Merchants Row. The huge stream, pouring 500 gallons of water a minute, battered the flames back.

### West Side Force Arrives.

About 15 minutes after West Rutland had been asked for help Chief Charles L. Montgomery and 10 other men from the West Side arrived and soon had two streams on the fire in the rear of the building. Water was being played on the Salvation Army and Ljungquist buildings.

With eight streams of water in action, the flames began to abate.

Soon they had retreated from the front of the building and the firemen were able by means of ladders to reach the second story and enter. The introduction of the 11 West Rutland fire fighters into the battle greatly aided the weary Rutland men, who had been swallowing gas and smoke for nearly three hours.

### Spread Curbed at 9 O'clock.

By 7.30 o'clock there was no danger that the fire would spread further and the flames in the building were melting before the water. By 9 o'clock smoke from the smoldering roof and the materials in the basement were the only live evidences of the fire.

At 9 o'clock there were several hundred persons on the Merchants Row and Cottage street sides of the ruined building and it was necessary to string police lines to keep the crowd from the ruins.

In the early stages of the fire, ammunition in the basement gave the firemen and a number of spectators a big scare. When the fire reached it the shells began to explode at infrequent intervals. Then the racket increased and soon it sounded as if a barrage was being laid down inside the store.

### Frank Rice Has Close Call.

Fireman Frank Rice, who was standing in the doorway in the rear of the building, had a narrow escape, when one of the bullets screamed by his head, and imbedded itself in the building behind him.

About 11 o'clock State Fire Marshal A. G. Preble, who had been on his way through the city by train and had stopped for an investigation, arrived and looked over the building. He congratulated Chiefs Koltonski and Montgomery and their men for the splendid "stop" which they had made, stressing the fact that buildings on both sides of the fire were of wooden construction.

The fire marshal did not make any statement as to his opinion of the cause.

MARCH 2, 1931.

## FIRE IN BASEMENT CAUSES \$1000 LOSS

### Department Battles Stub- born Blaze in Lincoln Iron Storehouse.

Answering a general alarm from Box 41, members of the Rutland fire department yesterday morning battled a stubborn blaze in the basement of the Lincoln Iron Works' storehouse at 78 West street. The office of the state Chamber of Commerce and the Lassar Drug store are in the building.

The fire was discovered about 9.30 o'clock by Godfrey E. Lassar, who noticed that the drug store was filled with dense smoke when he opened it for business. He telephoned to the fire department and soon afterwards the alarm was turned in. The fire originated in a pile of oakum in the basement and the smoke made it difficult for the firemen to battle the blaze. Two lines of hose were laid and the fire was soon put under control. It was confined to the basement.

The blaze destroyed a considerable amount of shelving in the basement and the smoke damaged the Lassar drug store. Chief A. H. Koltonski estimated the loss at about \$1000.

A year ago last month fire in the same basement caused about \$4000 damage. The building is owned by the Smith Lumber company.



#### Not Certain of Origin.

Fire Chief Koltonski last night stated that he was not yet certain about the origin. He learned during the day that electricians were called into the building to make some repairs on Monday and that men had been working at the store at 9.30 o'clock on Monday night.

The firemen were deeply appreciative of the work of the Salvation Army workers, who even while the fire was threatening their home served coffee and doughnuts to the weary flame battlers.

The merchandise available for use in the store after the fire was almost negligible. Costly furniture suites and radios on the first floor and other valuable articles made kindling for the flames.

The Montgomery Ward & company store had been heavily stocked for a spring sale. On Monday five carloads of furniture were brought to the building. H. C. Cornell of Bellevue avenue is the manager. Although no official estimate could be secured last night it was understood that the Ward loss would be well over \$125,000. The building, erected two years ago by Badlam, cost \$125,000. Cornell was unable to state last night any plans for the future or a temporary location but said that a representative from the main office of the company at Chicago would be in the city today.

Badlam stated that the building would be re-constructed immediately. Construction of the building was started in March, 1929 by the F. H. Remington company of this city and was completed in the latter part of August. The Montgomery Ward & company leased the place

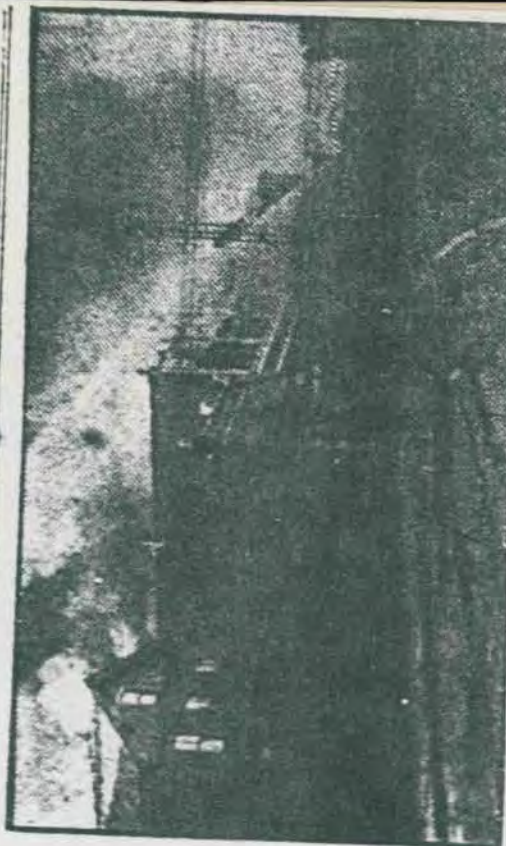
for 18 years. One of the provisions of the lease was that Badlam, in case of fire, would reconstruct the building immediately. On the request of Remington and Badlam the firemen pumped water from the celer yesterday afternoon in order that work could be started as quickly as possible on reconstruction.

Fire Chief Koltonski stated that the state fire marshal would be in the city within a few days to investigate the origin of the fire.

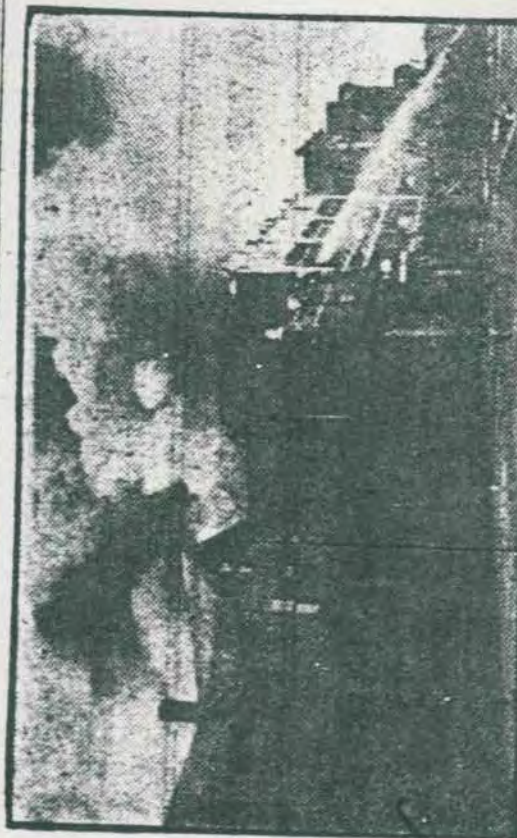
A number of men, not permanent or call firemen, assisted in battling the flames.

RUTLAND DAILY HERALD, WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 15, 1931.

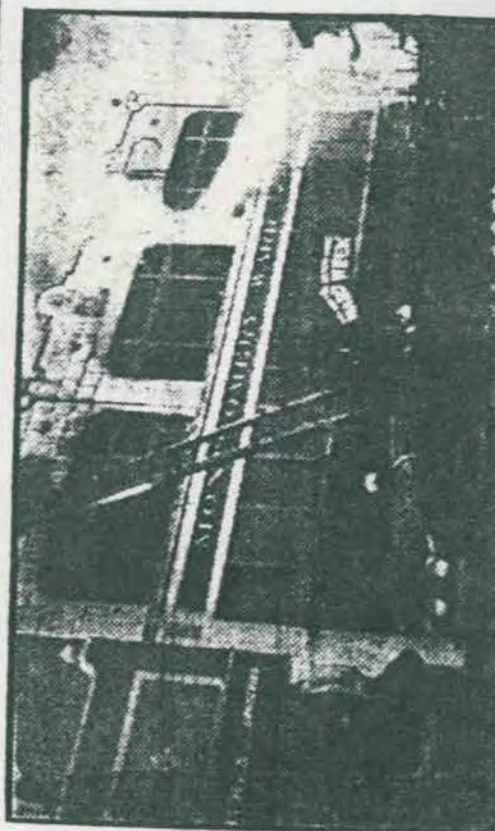
## Graphic Scenes of Fire Attacking Montgomery Ward Bldg.



Herald Photo  
Scene showing aerial ladder in operation with firemen directing streams of water from topmost rungs. Big "Slamese" hose also shown with two streams of water pouring out of nozzle.



Herald Photo  
Fire at its worst when it looked as if all buildings on East side of Merchants Row in this block, might fall victim to flames, firemen atop building.



Herald Photo  
Fighting flames in rear of building by directing streams of water from Merchants Row at front of building. At this period firemen were in the building.



# Lineman Dies, Duty's Martyr As Fire Rages

LEO D. HUTCHINS

Electric Co. Employee  
Climbs Pole During  
Fairground Fire to  
Prevent Accident to  
People Below.

IS ELECTROCUTED

Effort to Save Man Is  
Futile; Death Comes  
Hours Afterward; It  
Is Estimated Fire  
Loss Is \$40,000.

Tragedy, resulting in the death of an electric lineman, followed the fire which about 4 o'clock yesterday morning destroyed the mammoth automobile building at the fairgrounds with a loss now estimated at about \$40,000.

Attempting to safeguard the lives of firemen and spectators against danger from "live" wires, Leo D. Hutchins, veteran employee of the Central Vermont Public Service corporation was electrocuted at the top of a pole on Park street near the burning building, falling 30 feet to the ground after contact with high voltage electricity.

Fellow workmen, firemen and doctors spent six hours in futile efforts to resuscitate the man until he was pronounced dead at 11:15 o'clock.

Many See Lineman Fall.

A hundred or more persons at the fire saw the lineman fall to his death. They also saw Clifford Newell of Cleveland avenue, a fellow lineman, risk his own life in an attempt to save Hutchins.

The tragedy occurred about 4:45 o'clock. Hutchins, who for 15 years has been in the employ of the electric company, went up the pole to cut the wires free from the current. Inasmuch as the wires on the ground were menacing the lives of firemen and others in the vicinity.

Just what happened at the top of the pole is not known. The lineman may have grasped an uncovered wire, containing 2300 volts of electricity or he may have received the shock through the crossarm on the pole, which it is believed was highly charged.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, who saw the tragedy said:

"I looked up at the top of the pole and as I did I heard Hutchins go on loudly. The charge at that time 'had' him. He was struggling to free himself from the grip of the current and seemed to be almost paralyzed. His moans could be heard for many yards. For a minute he slumped over the crossarm, then away backward and plunged to the ground."

Rushes To Aid Companion.

When Lineman Newell saw the predicament of his fellow worker, without thinking of his own life, he ran to the pole and began climbing upward. He had almost reached the middle of the pole, when Hutchins plunged downward. Newell stretched out his arm to grasp the man but the weight was so great that Newell was knocked from the pole and fell with Hutchins to the ground. He escaped without injuries.

Electrical workers on the ground stated that Newell had only a bare chance of saving Hutchins and that the odds were against saving his own life if he should come in contact with the man's body while he was in the grip of the current.

Hutchins struck the ground on his shoulder with a dull thud. Spectators were horrified at the turn of events.

Sinks Into Unconsciousness.

Just as fellow workmen and firemen reached him Hutchins gasped several times and then lapsed into unconsciousness. Right on the spot where he had fallen work of resuscitation was started. Neighbors, who just a few minutes before had been worrying over the possible destruction of their homes, hastened to his side with hot water bottles and blankets. The fire department inhalator was brought out and tanks of oxygen were sent in an ambulance from the hospital and the Patch Manufacturing company.

Newell led in the work. For three hours doctors, firemen and employees of the power company labored in the highway to save the life of Hutchins. Gathered around the group were hundreds of persons attracted by the fire. The man's body was warm for a long period and at times a slight pulse action was noticed. Clayton Fuller, Charles Willard, David Roach, William Davis, Fireman Martin Kelly and others assisted in the work. Drs. Francis E. Quigley, Stewart W. Ross and John L. Southworth were in attendance. Late in the morning the man's body was taken into the home of Mrs. Scribner at 15 Park street, across the street from the destroyed automobile building, where the men con-

tinued their efforts to revive Hutchins.

Dies at 11:15 O'clock.

At 11:15 o'clock the man was pronounced dead.

The cause of his death was officially given as an electrical shock, although it was believed that he had received severe internal injuries from the fall. The body was taken to the Spencer funeral home. Later it was taken to the home of Mrs. Harry L. Smith of Sheldon Place, sister-in-law of the dead man.

Hutchins is survived by a 10-year-old son, Burt Hutchins. It is the second time within two years that tragedy has entered the little boy's life. Two years ago his mother, Mrs. Bernada Johnston Hutchins was killed in an automobile accident near Hubbardton.

Cause of Fire Unknown.

Fire Chief Koltonski last night stated that until State Fire Marshal A. G. Preble conducts a thorough investigation the fire cause will be listed as "unknown." The flames were discovered shortly after 3:30 o'clock and in less than an hour had razed the automobile building, which had the largest floor space of any building in the state.

"Had it not been for the rain which fell during the day and wet down the roofs of dwellings and also sprinkled the grass and brushland in the vicinity, we might have had a conflagration on our hands," Chief Koltonski said last night.

As it was, fires caused by falling sparks, broke out on the roofs of three buildings. Two occurred at the house and barn of Newman K. Chaffee, who lives on South Main street, a short distance north of the fire, but these were put out by members of the household.

The West Rutland Fire department, immediately upon arrival, extinguished a fire, which had started on the roof of a barn, owned by Caleb Buffum of South Main street. For a while it looked as though the disaster of Easter Sunday, 1923, when several fires were started by sparks from a dress factory fire on Stronge avenue, might be repeated.

"Exposures" Safeguarded.

Safeguarding of "exposures" by the combined fire fighting forces saved further damage.

Engine 1 and its crews protected the buildings on the fairgrounds.

Engine 2 played two streams of water on the burning building.

Combination 3 covered the buildings on Park street.

The apparatus from Proctor was stationed at the Central station, prepared to answer alarms to fires, starting from flying sparks.

The West Rutland apparatus, in charge of Chief Charles L. Montgomery, covered the outlying section.

So far as Chief Koltonski could learn yesterday the fire started in about the middle of the huge building. The Tom Thumb Golf course, owned by Cless G. Davis has been in use in the place since early in the winter. Because of the height of the ceiling it had been found necessary to build a false ceiling in order to decrease heating difficulties. This ceiling, constructed of paper, was an easy prey for the flames. The golf course, valued at more than \$15,000 was completely ruined. The owner had planned to remove it from the building to Lake Bomoseen for the summer.

Directors to Meet Soon.

Will L. Davis, president of the Rutland Fair association, stated last night that no plans for reconstruction had been made. The board of directors of the association will hold a meeting within two or three days to consider plans for rebuilding, he said.

The automobile building was constructed about eight years ago by Charles G. Noyes, local contractor. It was 180 feet long and 100 feet wide.

Up to this year it had been used during the winter and sometimes during the summer as a storage place for automobiles. During fair

time it has been used as an automobile display room.

In commenting on the fire, Davis said: "The loss of the building and the destruction of the golf course is as nothing as compared with the death of the lineman, who was trying to safeguard those at the fire. We can replace the building."

The building was heated by an "air blower" oil-burning system.

Only one fireman was injured during the battle against the flames. Raymond McGarry's hands were badly scorched by heat as he worked on Park street.

APRIL 18, 1931.

## BELIEVE STORE FIRE CAUSED BY CHARGER

Preble and Koltonski Lay  
Montgomery Ward Blaze  
to Electric Device.

After a complete inspection of the ruined building, Fire Marshal A. G. Preble of Barre announced yesterday that he believed that an overheated battery charger was responsible for the fire, which early Tuesday morning destroyed the Montgomery Ward & company store and stock at 26 Merchants Row with a loss of more than \$200,000.

Yesterday morning the fire marshal, Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and Deputy Chief Ralph R. Beane of the Rutland Fire department made a survey of the entire building in search of clues as to the origin of the fire.

During their investigation they found that there was reason to believe that the battery charger had been in use early in the evening and probably had been working throughout the night. The marshal and the officials of the Rutland department are not exactly certain that the fire was caused by the overheating of the apparatus but that is the reason which will be advanced in the state records.

Salvage Crews Arrive.

Salvage crews from the insurance companies which had coverage on the stock of the Montgomery Ward company were working yesterday in a check-up on the damaged merchandise.

G. E. L. Badlam, owner of the building, stated last night that as soon as these men have completed their work, he will have the place put into shape for immediate reconstruction. He said that no contract for the rehabilitation had been let as yet but that tentative arrangements for the work were already underway.

The fire, which broke out about 3:30 o'clock Tuesday morning swept through the building in about seven hours, destroying the large stock of the store. Until yesterday's investigation the cause had been listed as "unknown."



# Incendiary Rumor Spreads As Fair Has Second Fire

## INQUIRY BEGINS

Industrial Building Is Razed With Damage of \$22,000; Proctor and West Rutland Departments Lend Aid.

## PREBLE ARRIVES

Investigation was started yesterday into the cause of the fire which at about 2 o'clock yesterday morning completely destroyed the large industrial building on the Rutland fair grounds and seriously threatened more than \$100,000 worth of property nearby. Loss was estimated to be \$22,000. Energetic work by the local firemen, assisted by West Rutland and Proctor companies, saved the grandstand and Horticultural hall structures, as well as private dwellings on Park street.

While Fair association and fire department officials were reticent in reference to their investigations, Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and State Fire Marshal A. G. Preble spent considerable time yesterday, looking over the ruins of the building. Chief Koltonski would express no opinion as to the cause, but said, "Fires like that don't just start."

### Second Disastrous Blaze.

This is the second large fair grounds building which has been destroyed by fire recently. In the latter part of April, the Automobile building was destroyed at about the same time of day with a loss of approximately \$25,000. The two fires have made considerable drain on the Fair association, as indicated by the fact that Will L. Davis, president of the association, stated last night that the Industrial building will be rebuilt only with the assurance that the merchants and manufacturers will stand behind the association by taking their usual exhibition concessions.

The flames were discovered at about 2:07 a. m., by R. C. Coleman who lives on Park street almost opposite the Industrial building. He

had gone to feed his infant son when he felt the intense heat and saw the reflection of the flames. Coleman of 37 Park street, a neighbor of Coleman, phoned the fire department. Capt. Francis Seward turned in an alarm on receiving the

### Find Roof Caved In.

When the fire apparatus arrived at the scene, the flames had consumed the major portion of the 228 by 44 foot building and the roof had caved in at the center of the structure. Heat was so intense that the radiator case on the rear of engine number one was blistered when firemen drove past the blazing building striking a line of hose. Trees in the rear of residences on Park street were scorched as were the tops of the homes of Joseph C. Gray and Robert J. Hesse. The wooden brick Park street school was also scorched.

JUNE 1, 1931.

## McCLALLEN BLOCK FIRE LOSS \$6000

### Cause of Blaze That Damaged Building on Merchants Row Unknown.

After two days investigation by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and the owners of the McClallen block at 62 Merchants Row which was damaged by fire early Saturday morning, the cause of the blaze was still undetermined last night.

Damage to the building and the four business places located in the three-story wooden structure was estimated yesterday at \$6000, well insured.

Fire and smoke caused most of the damage, although water from the five streams turned upon the blaze seeped down through partitions into the Anes & Braves candy shop and McClallen's drug store. The firemen, and also the police department were complimented by the owners on their work in saving much merchandise in both stores. Heavy salvage covers were thrown over show cases and fixtures with good effect.

### Howard Heaviest Loser.

The heaviest loss was suffered by Harland V. Howard, whose second floor electric shop is believed to have been damaged to the extent of \$2000. Damage to Hale's Institute, adjoining Howard's shop, is estimated at \$500 while the McClallen drug store has an estimated loss of \$1000. Estimated damage to the Anes & Braves store approximate \$1500. The balance of the loss is on the building.

Chief Koltonski pointed out yesterday that one potential cause of the fire was spontaneous combustion. Some oil mops, it was said, was stored in the closet where the blaze is thought to have originated and, on account of the warm atmosphere, these may have become ignited. As the alarm of the fire was turned in from box 45, at 2:30 a. m., located in the heart of the business section, every piece of fire apparatus in the city and all call men responded.

Several times flying embers started fires on the shingles of the railroad structure, but the firemen who were keeping close watch on all happenings quickly extinguished these before any serious damage was done. They kept streams of water on the grandstand, the Horticultural building and connecting the restroom structure, also on the house opposite on Park street.

### Summons Outside Aid.

The West Rutland and Proctor companies were called upon by Chief Koltonski at a time when it was feared that the fire would spread through the restroom structure into the large Horticultural building, which is also connected with the Arts and Crafts structure. It was his plan to use these companies to save other buildings on the grounds and the structures on Park street by spraying streams of water on them constantly. At that time it was considered impossible to save the Industrial building.

West Rutland, a volunteer company, established something of a

record in getting to the fire. It arrived at the fair grounds exactly 13 minutes after the call was received. Proctor's fire company arrived shortly after the other out-of-town company. However, the latter company was not needed.

Power in the electric lines running through the Industrial building had been cut off for some time and when the firemen arrived the power in all other lines in that section of the city was cut off to avoid electrocution, since when the automobile building burned L. C. "Whitey" Hutchins, a lineman, was killed by shock received when he came in contact with a high voltage line, which had broken from a pole beside the destroyed building.

### Fair Executives Meet.

President Davis, when approached

following a hastily called meeting of the executive board of the Fair association, declared that the loss to the association was about \$12,000. This loss was only partially covered by insurance and will be felt rather severely by the association. A brand new motortruck which had just been fitted with a sprinkler tank and apparatus for keeping the race track in condition was ruined.

The building contained about 34 merchants' and manufacturers' booths which Mr. Davis said, represented an investment of between \$200 and \$300 each, bringing the loss of \$22,000. There were also two complete restaurant kitchen outfits on the south side of the building. There was nothing left to salvage. Mr. Davis said that there was no rubbish in the building which might possibly have started the fire, neither had any workmen been in the building this season.

President Davis commended the firemen for their excellent work in stopping the fire in less than an hour with no damage except in the one building. They saved the grandstand from burning, loss of which would have been a very heavy blow to the association, Davis said.

Speaking of plans for rebuilding the Industrial building immediately, he said that the Fair association intends to erect a new structure, similar in design, if it has the assurances of merchants and manufacturers that they will back the project by leasing the same amount of space they had occupied in the destroyed building. The structure was erected in 1924 and at that time filled a big demand for exhibition quarters. It was an addition to the group of fair buildings and did not replace any former structure. Mr. Davis expressed confidence that the exhibitors would accept the proposition.



## FRUIT CO. FIRE LOSS IS FIXED AT \$10,000

**Franklin Block, 41 Merchants Row, Damaged in Early-Morning Blaze.**

The loss in the fire which ruined the interior of the two-story building at 41 Merchants Row early yesterday morning, destroying the stock of the High Grade Fruit company, operated by John Pantas and consuming furnishings of apartments on the second floor, was fixed last night at more than \$10,000 partly covered by insurance. The origin of the blaze has not yet been determined.

Pantas said that his loss in fruit and nuts alone would total about \$4000. The loss to the owner of the building, Miss Etta Franklin, is understood to be in the vicinity of \$5000. Early yesterday morning Miss Franklin had a crew of six carpenters, under the supervision of contractor Frank L. Young, boarding up the store front. As soon as estimates can be obtained the building will be rebuilt, she stated.

Duffy Bros. market on the south side of the burned building was damaged by water and smoke. A shipment of canned goods in the cellar was damaged and William F. Duffy proprietor, said yesterday that he figured his loss at \$1000.

The brick wall between the Franklin building and the block occupied by the A & P. store at the north was the only thing which saved the latter, firemen said. Only a small amount of water made its way into the cellar, although the place was blackened with smoke. Frank Bruzza, part owner of block, said yesterday that it will take \$500 to paint and "fix up."

### Battle Flames Three Hours.

The firemen from the Central fire station fought the blaze for more than three hours before the flames which continually threatened the wooden partition on the Duffy Bros. side were checked.

The fire broke out at 3.30 and by the time the fire apparatus reached the scene the flames were streaking to the roof. The blaze had gained such headway that none of the stock of trade in the fruit store or the furniture in the apartment above was saved.

Pantas, who occupied an apartment over the store, was away at the time the fire broke out and Mrs. Pantas was not in the city so that no lives were endangered in the building itself but in the adjoining block occupied by the Duffy meat market, two roomers, Jim Travers and James Bennett, were taken out by the firemen from the second floor, partly overcome by smoke.

The firemen were forced to work under distressing circumstances inasmuch as the thermometer hovered near the zero mark.

On the second floor of the A. & P. building is located the offices of Dr. J. E. O'Brien, Dr. Charles H. Swift and Dr. N. J. Delchanty. All three offices were badly smoked. The rooms occupied by the Rutland Business College on the third floor were also blackened. From the college office window could be seen yesterday the mute evidence of the flames which came so near to breaking through the partition from the adjoining roof, 12 feet below.

Yesterday morning's fire brought the total for the year here up to 199.

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 12, 1931.

## BLAZE AT NEWMAN'S STARTED IN CLOSET

**Cause of Early-Morning Garage Fire Is Still Mystery, However.**

Investigation conducted yesterday afternoon at the ruins of the Abraham Newman garage office on Chaplin avenue by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski failed to disclose the cause of the fire early yesterday morning which caused damage estimated at about \$15,000. However, it was decided that the fire started in a small closet beneath the front staircase leading to the second story of the frame building.

Newman declared last night that his loss on the building and automobile parts stock would amount to about \$12,000. That figure, he said, did not include the loss from damaged office records. The garageman was unable to state whether or not he would rebuild the structure or tear it down. As to his loss from destroyed records, he said that the building was too wet yesterday to investigate the extent of damage in the office. He said, however, that a large portion of his records are in the safe.

The fire was discovered shortly before 3 o'clock by Mrs. Grace Lyman, who lives at the home of Warren Hinckley, next house to the destroyed building. She was awakened by reflection of the flames on the mirror of the dresser in her bedroom which has a window facing the garage office.

### Second Fire in 3 Days.

This fire was the second causing considerable damage to a commercial establishment in this city within three days. The other to happen at approximately the same hour of the morning was the blaze which caused about \$10,000 loss to the High Grade Fruit company store on Merchants Row and the block which contained it. Both blazes were of mysterious origin.

Two other disastrous fires happened in this city this year of undetermined origin and at about the same time of day as the Newman fire. They were the automobile and industrial building blazes at the fair grounds. The Montgomery Ward store fire last year also was of unknown origin and it, too, happened at an early hour of the morning.



## BAPTIST SPIRE IS BADLY DAMAGED IN SPECTACULAR FIRE

Flames Burst Out High Up  
on Steeple as Workmen  
Repair Its Walls.

OFFICIALS UNABLE  
TO LEARN ORIGIN

Courthouse and Residence  
of Dr. Gilchrist Endan-  
gered; Fireman Hurt.

Fire which broke out in the steeple of the First Baptist church on Center street about 2.45 o'clock yesterday afternoon threatened, for a time, to destroy the entire structure, also the Rutland County court building on the east and the residence of Dr. O. J. Gilchrist on the west.

Not only was considerable property endangered but the lives of two steeplejacks who were working on the outside of the spire when the fire was discovered, were also imperiled. Members of the Knights of Pythias lodge, sitting on the porch of their clubhouse across the street, were watching the steeplejacks at work. When they discovered the flames shooting from the spire only a few feet above the workmen's heads, they shouted warnings.

The men quickly lowered themselves to the ground in their bos'n's chairs. They did not descend any too soon for barely had they left the church lawn when pieces of slate began to fall from the topmost part of the spire.

### Fireman Injured.

Almo Pellistri of 132 State street, a callman, sustained a laceration upon the top of the head while he was assisting in the difficult task of erecting a ladder on the east side of the roof. He was given first aid and was able to continue his work until the blaze was extinguished. He was the only man hurt, although many of the firemen risked their lives in climbing around on the roof and inside the steeple.

Deputy Chief Ralph Bean and four members of his company had the most dangerous task of any members of the department. They were the ones who carried the small lines of hose to the peak of the spire on the inside, more than 150 feet above the ground. Their ascent was most difficult because there are no stairs inside the steeple. About every eight feet there is a platform formed by braces from the outside beams.

The men had to "snake" themselves from one platform to the other, driving the fire before them.

### Work in Dense Smoke.

Because there was only one small hole in the roof, made by the steeplejacks to facilitate their work, the small space on the inside of the tower was filled with dense smoke. Ventilation was very poor, making breathing difficult for the firemen.

After they had driven the flames to the very top of the structure, the firemen chopped a number of holes through the sides of the steeple to permit them to see and breathe better. They also leaned out of these holes with lines of hose to send streams of water onto the flames which were eating into the steeple cap.

Several lines of hose were used in

## BAPTIST SPIRE IS BADLY DAMAGED IN SPECTACULAR FIRE

(Continued From Page One).

extinguishing the blaze. However, little water reached the flames because of the great height and the strong wind which was blowing at the time. A Siamese connection was made to the nozzle on the aerial ladder and that apparatus was extended to its full length. The wind was in just the wrong direction to allow this stream to strike the spire with sufficient force and continuity to be of much use.

### Falling Slate Hit House.

Falling slate and boards chopped from the side of the spire endangered the lives of the firemen working with hose and ladders about the foot of the steeple. The Gilchrist house was pelted with numerous pieces of slate, but no damage was done. The stream from the aerial ladder was blown onto that house several times and at one point was striking full onto a large window, but that was not broken.

After a strenuous battle for more than an hour, the last small tongue of flame was put out and the firemen were able to take a rest. Ice water was served to them from the kitchen of the Knights of Pythias clubhouse.

### Cause Not Determined.

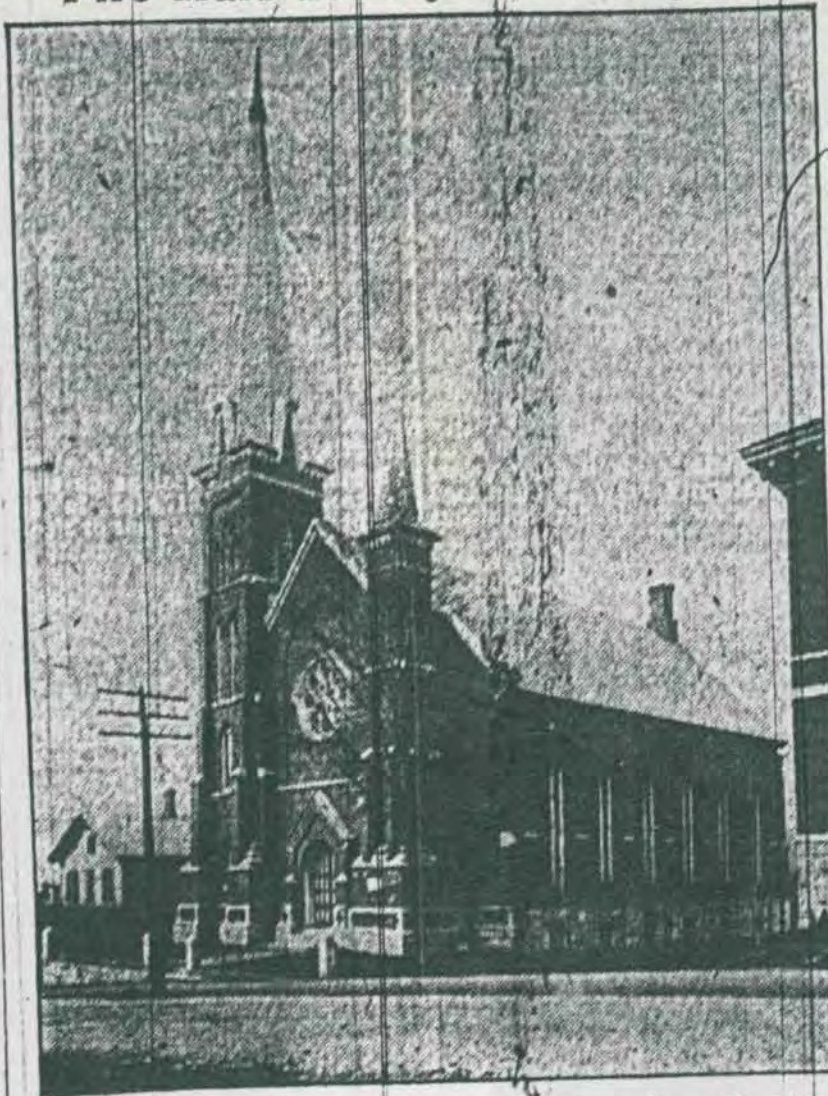
Chief Koltonski and Deputy Chief Bean made an investigation of the fire shortly after it was out. They were unable to find any evidence revealing the cause of the mysterious blaze. It was apparent from the manner in which the flames had charred the interior of the steeple that they originated on one of the platforms about 20 feet from the peak of the spire.

Here the planks of the platform were badly damaged and the heavy beams supporting the tower were charred considerably. The outside boarding upon which the slate shingles were nailed was eaten through in places by the flames. This outside boarding will have to be replaced and a part of the platform, but the main beams supporting the spire were not seriously damaged by the flames.

Chief Koltonski declared that there is no danger of the spire falling, but loose slate pieces may be blown from the outside. Police roped off a considerable area on Center street near the church. Pedestrians are being warned to keep away from this section because of the danger of falling slate.

C. D. Spencer and other officials of the church commended Chief Koltonski and his department upon the fine job made.

## Fire Mars Stately Church Spire



First Baptist edifice situated on Center street was damaged yesterday when flames broke out in the steeple while men were making repairs. At the left in photograph above may be seen the residence of Dr. O. J. Gilchrist and at the right is the Rutland County courthouse, both of which were endangered. Firemen were obliged to work their way up the inside of the spire in order to battle the flames.

## HOUSE BURNS WHILE FAMILY IS ABSENT

Mr. and Mrs. John Flory  
Return From Outing to  
Find Home in Ashes.

John Flory of the west Proctor road yesterday estimated that damage of more than \$8000 was done when fire of undetermined origin destroyed his home at about 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon in spite of the efforts of firemen from Rutland, West Rutland and Proctor.

Mr. and Mrs. Flory and family left the residence at 3.40 o'clock for an automobile ride to Lake Bomoseen. When they returned at 7 o'clock and found their home in ruins and no furniture in sight, Mrs. Flory, who has been ill for some time, fainted.

Paul J. Gawet, who lives about an eighth of a mile from the Flory farm, discovered the fire when he investigated the source of a cloud of smoke blown by a west wind to him while he was sitting on his front porch. At that time, 4.15 o'clock, the flames were confined to a small shed attached to the east end of the dwelling.

### No Water Available.

Gawet summoned the Rutland, West Rutland and Proctor fire departments. Rutland firemen arrived first, but because of the lack of any water source, they were unable to check the flames. They helped to remove a large part of the furniture, and other belongings, including more than \$500 worth of jewelry.

When the other departments arrived, firemen decided that a sufficient amount of chemical extinguisher was available to check the fire. This was tried but was not successful. Capt. R. R. Bean of the Rutland department stated that the fire could easily have been stopped had any source of water been available. However, all that the firemen were able to do was to save a portion of the furniture and the haybarn nearby.

### Traffic Congested.

Flames and smoke from the fire attracted hundreds of holiday motorists whose cars choked the west road for a distance of more than a mile in each direction. A large number of drivers stopped their cars on the concrete road to watch the fire, thus congesting traffic for more than an hour.



## FURNITURE STORE IS DAMAGED BY FLAMES

Lash Concern Suffers Loss  
Estimated at \$5000 in  
Early Evening Fire.

Fire of undetermined origin caused damage estimated between \$4000 and \$5000 to the Lash furniture store on West street at about 6.30 o'clock last night. Efficient work on the part of the Rutland fire department quickly halted what might have been a dangerous fire and reduced water damage to a minimum. Benjamin W. Lash of Birchwood avenue, the owner, was in Burlington at the time of the fire.

A. E. LaFay of 11 Evelyn street discovered the fire when smoke and reflection of the flames attracted his attention as he was passing the Norton filling station at the corner of West and Evelyn streets. He immediately rang in Box 44.

All four fire trucks responded. When the firemen arrived flames were gaining rapid headway in a room on the second floor which was filled with mattresses. Between 22 and 23 mattresses were destroyed. Several beds on which they were displayed were badly damaged. All woodwork in the room was burned. The flames had started to eat into the ceiling and partitions.

While most of the firemen were busy getting two lines of hose into the building, several of the men stretched a number of large tarpaulins over the furniture in the display rooms on the first floor to prevent water damage. The burning mattresses were thrown from a rear door to the alley behind the building. There, a stream of water was employed to extinguish all signs of fire.

The alarm was sounded at 6.29 o'clock and by 6.50 o'clock the flames were entirely under control. At 7.30 o'clock the building was entirely clear of smoke and the firemen were mopping up the water on the first floor which had seeped through the ceiling.

Edward W. Tracy of 18 Nichols street, assistant manager of the store, said that no one was at the store when the fire started. He said that everyone left the building at 6 o'clock.

The only evidence of fire on the first floor was near a small stove, in a repair room on the southeast corner of the building. Here a small set of shelves about four feet from the stove was damaged. There were no indications that this damage had been done by the fire on the second floor the firemen said.

## J. C. PENNEY STORE DAMAGED BY FIRE

Flames Break Out in Basement and Smoke Causes Heavy Loss to Stock.

ORIGIN IS UNKNOWN

Fire which originated from an unknown cause in the boiler room of the J. C. Penney store, 27-29 Center street, about 8.30 o'clock last night threatened buildings in the heart of the business center and resulted in heavy damage by smoke to the Penney stock. A large crowd was attracted to the scene as the trucks appeared and smoke poured heavenward from the three-story brick building.

The firemen were first called by telephone by Motorcycle Officer Warren G. Battles, who discovered the fire, but it was later found necessary to sound a general alarm.

Dense smoke filled the store. When firemen attempted to get to the basement with a line of hose, they were forced to stop and put on "fresh-air masks" before they could go down the stairway. A line from the booster tank served to quell the flames until a regulation size stream could be taken into the store.

Flames Entirely in Basement.

The flames were confined to the boiler room and an adjoining room where dismantled packing boxes and cardboard cartons were kept. The partitions were scorched but the firemen prevented the flames from spreading to the surrounding stockroom.

Water was used sparingly so that there was no damage from this source. What little water leaked from the hose connections on the main floor, was mopped up before damage resulted.

Two Firemen Injured.

Two firemen were slightly injured. Frederick W. Savage, Jr., sustained slight injury on his nose when he collided with a showcase. Capt. Leo H. Stone burned his right cheek by contact with a steam pipe while fighting the fire in the dense smoke.

The building occupied by the Penney store is owned by the John Dunn estate. The second floor is occupied by the Tea shop and the law offices of Lindley S. Squires. Madam X. clairvoyant, lives on the third floor.

DECEMBER 15, 1932.

## CHARLES BELOCK OF CREEK ROAD IS HELD FOR ARSON

Father of 10 Children Sticks to Denial Despite Hours of Questioning.

FIRE LEVELS BARN

Rags Soaked With Kerosene and Gas Found in Walls of Damaged House.

After several hours of stiff grilling, Charles Belock, 35, maintained his innocence of a charge of arson placed against him by State's Attorney Jack A. Crowley as the result of a fire at about 9.15 o'clock last night which completely destroyed the horsebarn and slightly damaged the house on Belock's farm on Creek road. Damage is expected to be less than \$5000.

Kerosene and gasoline-soaked rags found stuffed in partitions, beneath sills and in other places about the dwelling by Crowley and Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski during their investigation resulted in the arrest of Belock, who with his wife and 10 children was absent from the farm when the fire broke out. He returned soon after the alarm was sounded.

Belock told Crowley that he left home at about 6.45 o'clock in the evening and went visiting in Center Rutland. He denied knowledge of the oil-soaked rags and other evidences of arson found about the property.

Kerosene on Floor.

Louis Gray, who lives on outer Park street, discovered the fire and sounded an alarm. He rushed to the farm and was the first to arrive. The barn was rapidly being consumed by flames and it was impossible for him to enter the structure.

When firemen arrived a pump line was connected to the river. Chief Koltonski and Deputy Chief R. R. Bean discovered the fire in the house through a cellar window. The flames had gained but slight headway there, and were extinguished before much damage was done. The barn was practically in ruins when the firemen arrived. They quickly extinguished the flames in this structure.

During the investigation, the officers found in a room, believed to be the kitchen, but bare of furniture, a large pool of kerosene. In the basement was a pile of highly inflammable material topped with a rag saturated with kerosene or gasoline. Tucked under the sill on the west side of the house for several feet were rags so oil-soaked that the cellar was dripping wet. The stairways leading from the cellar to the first floor and from the first floor to the second, were oil soaked.

In one of the sleeping rooms, which had been stripped of all furnishings but a bed and feather mattress, was found a hole in the partition into which had been stuffed oil soaked rags. Kerosene had apparently been poured on top of these rags since the plaster surrounding the hole was dripping wet. In other rooms similar bits of evidence were found, including several large empty kerosene and gasoline containers.

Belock was locked in the police jail last night following the cross-examination by Crowley. It is expected that he will be arraigned today.

During Crowley's questioning, Belock said he did not know how many blankets his family owned. He at another time said that the family slept with only coats for covering. The farmer declared that three boys sleep in one bed, three girls in another, and he and his wife with the other four children sleep in the third bed. In many other instances, he told contradicting stories.

It is understood that Belock had about \$3500 insurance on his house and barns.



JUNE 20, 1932.

## INQUIRY STARTED IN \$10,000 FIRE AT OLD FOUNDRY

Vacant Building on Post St.  
Destroyed; 3 Houses Badly  
Damaged By Flames.

### SHOWER OF SPARKS THREATENS SECTION

Samuel D'Anelli's Automomobile,  
Parked at Curb,  
Swept By Flames.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski yesterday was making plans for an investigation of a fire of unknown origin, which broke out in the machine shop building of the old Davis foundry on Post street, about 11:06 o'clock Saturday night, and spread to three houses and a private garage on Spruce and Post streets. Damage amounting to more than \$10,000 was caused by the fire which at one time threatened the entire neighborhood.

The old foundry building, located on property between Spruce and Post streets, had not been in use for many years.

The fire was discovered about 11 o'clock by a man who was walking across River street bridge and saw the flames shooting up through the roof of the building.

#### Section Threatened.

The firemen fought desperately to save adjoining property. The houses of Samuel D'Anelli and Joseph Zingalli of Post street and William T. Dwyer of Spruce street were badly damaged. An automobile owned by D'Anelli, which was parked in the highway in front of the foundry, was destroyed. The heat was so intense that D'Anelli could not get to the automobile before the flames reached it.

Chief Koltonski feared for houses in other sections of the city as sparks from the burning building floated toward the north.

#### Flames Consume Foundry.

When the firemen arrived the flames had gained such headway in the foundry that it was impossible to save it. The adjoining houses were on fire at that time and firemen turned all their efforts toward extinguishing those blazes.

Several streams of water were played on the D'Anelli, Zingalli and Dwyer houses even after the fire, which threatened to destroy them, was under control. The heat was so intense that the glass in several windows in the neighborhood was shattered.

The foundry building was of wooden construction and burned speedily. The glare illuminated the sky and attracted the largest crowd that has been out for a fire here in many years.

The chief and other fire department officials will make a thorough search of the ruins today in an attempt to establish the origin of the blaze.

## Officials Start Investigation of Three Mysterious Fires in City

State's Attorney Jack A. Crowley is assisting Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and Police Chief Roy H. Leonard in the investigation of the three mysterious fires which have occurred in this city during the past three days. The buildings burned or damaged were the Combination farm slaughterhouse off Stratton road, the A. B. Engrem barn on North Main street and the Valente dwelling, Granger street.

The investigators found that no one is supposed to have been in the slaughterhouse for two weeks previous to the fire. This building was entirely destroyed at about 3 o'clock Wednesday morning. The flames were not discovered until they had gutted the structure.

The barn on the Engrem premises

burned to the ground Thursday night at about 7:30 o'clock. Several persons are known to have had knowledge of the fire several minutes before any alarm was given the firemen. One person, whom the investigators would not identify, was questioned in this connection.

Early yesterday morning a house at the rear of the residence of Peter Valente on Granger street was damaged by flames. It is believed that this fire originated on the outside of the building. Damage was estimated to be more than \$200. Insurance protection was being carried on all three buildings, it is understood.

Firemen were called out several times yesterday to extinguish grass fires in various parts of the city. No damage resulted.

TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 31, 1934.

## Fire Chief Says Men Do Not Use Axes On Windows and Roofs "Just For Fun"

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, in an interview yesterday exploded the myth that firemen use their big axes to break out windows and cut holes in the roofs of homes or business establishments just "for fun."

He explained that any damage done by the firemen's axes is far outweighed by the great reduction in the fire loss, because the ventilation of a building permits more prompt extinguishment of the fire.

"Hot smoke and gases," explained the chief, "go to all parts of a building when a fire starts. If they are not released, they will bank up within the building, and either cause the fire to spread through the building rapidly, or result in a smoke explosion."

In addition, he went on to say that "firemen, when entering a very smoky building, are unable to locate the seat of the fire quickly. In order to put out the fire with as small a water loss as possible, it is necessary to find the fire and throw the water directly on it."

When a building is "opened up," as the firemen say, by cutting holes in the roof and breaking out windows, the smoke, heat and gases pass off into the outer air. Then firemen can enter the building easily, find the fire, and put it out quickly. Without such action, it would take longer to find the fire, water might be thrown where it is not needed, and firemen would suffer greatly from the poisonous gases in the smoke.

The local fire department, according to Chief Koltonski, does not break windows or chop holes when



FIRE CHIEF KOLTONSKI.

It is possible to ventilate a building quickly without such damage. He did say, however, that it is absolutely essential that the smoke and heat be drawn out of the building just as soon as the fire department arrives. It has been found, after thorough study, asserted the chief, that the damage done by firemen in "opening up" a building is nothing compared to the damage from fire and water if they do not follow such a course.

"No one would refuse to allow a doctor to amputate a finger if he knew that the amputation would save his life," concluded the chief. "Fire fighting is like that. Cutting a hole in the roof often saves the entire building and its contents."



# Sterns Co. Store Ravaged by Fire; Damage is Heavy

## CAUSE UNKNOWN

Flames Start in Oil-burner Room in Basement and Spread to Third Floor Through Elevator Shaft.

## JEWELRY MELTED

Fire believed to have started in an oilburner room in the basement, caused a loss estimated at \$25,000 to the Charles Sterns and company store at 74 Merchants Row about 1:30 o'clock last night. Members of the family of Roderick E. Gravel, who live at 72 1/2 Merchants Row, an apartment adjoining the store building, were forced to flee by way of a fire escape.

The heat was so intense in the store that jewelry on top of a display case near the front entrance was melted to shapeless bits of metal. Water did more damage to the stock on the ground, second and third floors than did the flames.

The firemen, working under great handicap because of dense smoke, which the men said smelled like burning oil, checked the fire's progress and completely extinguished the flames within a short time. The fire had made great headway in the basement and first floor before a passerby smelled smoke and sent in an alarm.

### Dense Clouds of Smoke.

When the fire department arrived there was little indication of the extent of the fire. As soon as a window in the front was smashed in, the dense, black smoke began to pour out into the street. Within a few moments, the street was filled with smoke as was the back alley and Edison street section. Windows at the rear of the store were smashed in to give ventilation so that the men could get inside the building without being overcome.

The aerial ladder truck was set up in front of the store and the ladder extended to the roof. Firemen climbed with a line of hose to check any flames should they reach that height.

### Flames Spread in Shaft.

From the oilburner room, the flames spread over the entire rear of the basement, getting inside the elevator shaft. The draft in the shaft was so strong that the flames were drawn up to the third floor. On the ground floor, the fire spread considerably at the rear of the store while on the second and third floors the flames were confined principally to the inside of the elevator shaft.

A large amount of stock was burned in the basement where it was stored on shelves. On the ground floor stock at the rear was damaged by fire while smoke, which filled the room, caused heavy loss. Water increased the loss. The stock damage on the second and third floors was principally by smoke and water.

### Firemen Rescue Cat.

Women in the apartment adjoining the store became greatly alarmed and their screams could be heard for some distance as they stood on a fire escape. They threw articles of clothing and bedding from the fire escape to the ground, four stories below. Firemen made a trip to the Gravel apartment especially to save a small kitten which the fleeing family had forgotten.

A large crowd, warned of the fire by a general alarm, packed Merchants Row from building to building. Hundreds of others viewed the fire from the rear, where most of the action took place.

### Phone Company Busy.

Interest in the fire was so great that the telephone company had to call back a large number of operators who were off duty. Hundreds of calls were made for information concerning the fire. At the Herald office it was necessary for one person to stop all other work and do nothing but answer the telephone calls about the fire.

### Firemen Don Masks.

None of the firemen was overcome by smoke because smoke masks and air lines were used by the men who were working in the parts of the building where the smoke was thickest. The fire was under control in little more than a half hour after the firemen arrived and it was completely extinguished within little more than an hour.

The oil burner in the Sterns store exploded last week doing some damage.

RUTLAND, VERMONT, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 7, 1933.

# Fire In Shoe Store Endangers Center St.

Smoke and Water Damage Stock of Hyman Bloomberg Establishment; Flames Confined to Basement.

## GENERAL ALARM

Fire of undetermined origin, which apparently started in the basement, caused heavy damage from smoke and water to the stock of the Hyman Bloomberg shoe store at 44 Center street shortly after 8 o'clock last night and menaced several business establishments on the south side of Center street in the heart of the business district.

Hundreds of spectators assembled as dense clouds of smoke rolled from the door and windows of the shoe store and all of the city's fire-fighting apparatus appeared in response to an alarm from Box 45, Center and Wales streets.

The firemen found little blaze but the smoke arising from smoldering shoes and packing cases greatly handicapped the men in their work. Not until thousands of gallons of water had been poured in through the door and windows from several hose lines were the men able to approach close to the entrance.

The extension ladder was raised in order that a hose line might be taken to the roof should the flames eat their way upward.

### Fire Stopped in Basement.

The fire was stopped in the basement but the loss will amount to several thousand dollars due to the heavy damage by smoke and water. The shoe stock was practically ruined.

The block in which the Bloomberg store is located, a three-story brick structure, is owned by Emergene Martel and others. The store adjoining the Bloomberg establishment, in the same building, is vacant, as are the apartments on the two floors above, with the exception of the rooms on the second floor, west side, occupied by the Quality Electric shop. This is conducted by S. Russell Hall and Albert Avery. The smoke reached this shop and Hall was nearly overcome as he dashed into the rooms soon after the fire was discovered.

The vacant rooms immediately above the Bloomberg establishment were permeated with smoke.

The Nichols & Barney clothing store adjoins the Martel building on the east and Rutland on the west. The fire did not reach these establishments although there was a strong odor of smoke in both.

# FARM BUILDING IS RAZED BY FLAMES

Structure on Combination Store Property, Formerly Slaughterhouse, Burns.

Fire of undetermined origin about 3 o'clock yesterday morning destroyed an old slaughterhouse building on the Combination Cash Store farm, off Stratton road, with a loss of several hundred dollars.

Flames, shooting nearly 100 feet into the air, reflected on a heavy fog bank, brought the fire to the attention of residents in many parts of this city, Rutland town, West Rutland and other nearby towns. Due to the deceptiveness of the reflection from the fire many of the persons who went to the scene at first believed the fire to be on Killington avenue. Others thought the city poor farm property was ablaze.

The building was old and unused, thus its burning does not represent a great loss. Members of Rutland fire department responded to a telephone call at 3:20 o'clock. The flames had made such great headway that there was little the firemen could do but extinguish grass fires started from flying sparks.

The firemen were also called out four other times yesterday to extinguish grass fires. Little or no damage resulted. The fires were on Allen street, Fairview avenue, Gleason road and East Washington street.



MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 30, 1933

JUNE 3, 1933

## FIRE STARTS AS BOLT HITS BAPTIST SPIRE

Firemen and Steeplejack  
Put Out Flames After  
Six-Hour Fight.

One of the most spectacular fires seen in this city in many months occurred at about 4:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon when the steeple of the Baptist church burst into flames after being struck by a bolt of lightning. The loss estimated to be less than \$2500, although firemen battled the flames for about six hours.

H. H. Seward, Wales street grocer, was the lightning strike the 150-foot steeple. He telephoned the fire station. Several other calls were received before a general alarm was sounded as someone who saw smoke rising from the steeple.

James L. Mackey Seward and George W. Peck, III, furnished spectators with a number of thrills as they climbed out of the inside of the smoke-filled steeple and dangled from the edge of the bolts more than 100 feet in the air, directing an inch-and-a-half stream of water on the top of the spire. They took considerable time while attempting to fight the flames from this angle, as the water directed on the top of the steeple rushed back down to their faces.

### Steeplejack Scales Spire.

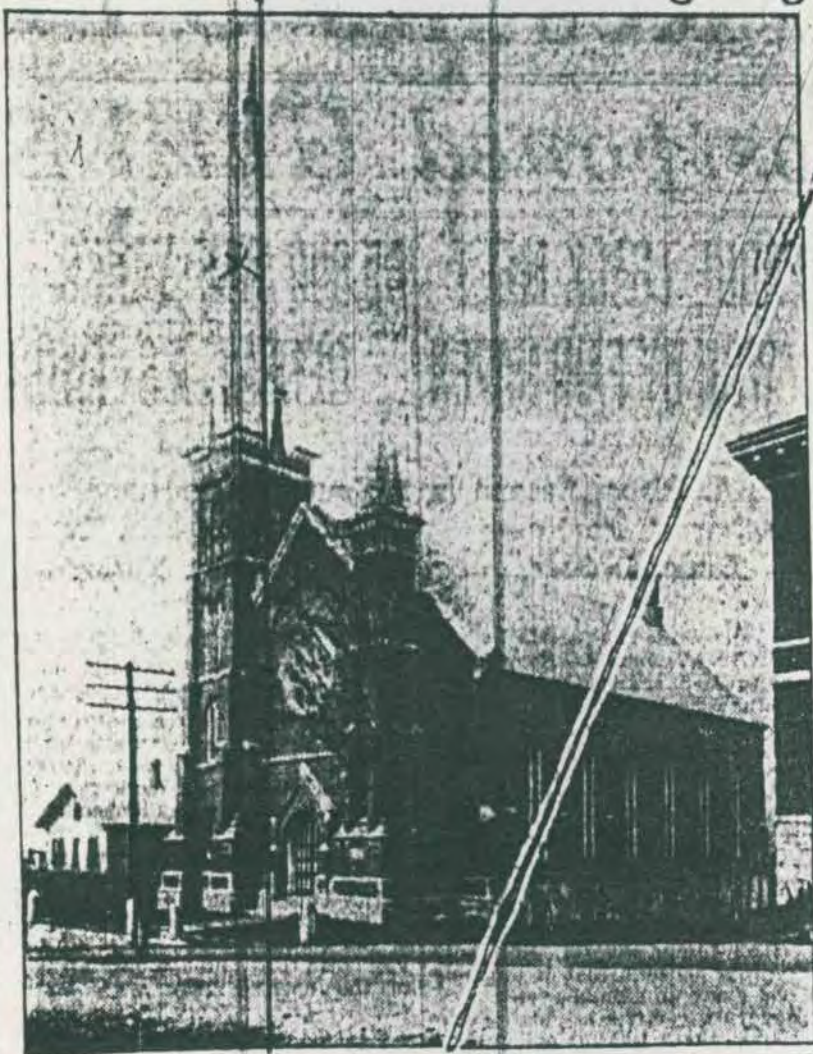
Another interesting performance was given by John C. Udart, a steeplejack, of 429 Temple street, who with the help of Arthur Monville of West street, scaled the outside of the spire by ropes rigged about the roof. Udart started his operations at about 7:30 o'clock Saturday night and using the inch-and-a-half stream actually extinguished the fire.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said yesterday that two pails of water would have put out the fire when the firemen arrived, but the flames were so situated that water could not be gotten to them. When repairs were made to the steeple after it burned severely more than a year ago, the top was boarded off. It was in this compartment thus formed that Saturday's fire was concentrated.

The fire was confined to the small space at the peak of the steeple. Over this is a copper plating. Such terrific heat was generated by the flames that the copper plating glowed red-hot and was plainly visible to spectators on the street after dark.

Chief Koltonski said that the flames of the spire were deeply burned, but that the tip of the steeple was in no danger of falling. It will have to be reinforced.

## Scene of Spectacular Fire Fighting



Flames that started when a lightning bolt hit the steeple of the Baptist church shown above kept Rutland fire fighters busy trying to extinguish them for about six hours Saturday afternoon and that night. Firemen C. L. (Jack) Seward and George W. Peck III battled the fire with an inch-and-a-half stream of water and John C. Udart, steeplejack, of Temple street, aided by Arthur Monville of West street, finally put out the fire.

## EARLY-MORNING FIRE ENDANGERS STORES

Blaze Starts in Basement  
of Fruitland, 40 Center  
Street; Loss \$2500.

Valuable property in the heart of the business district was endangered early yesterday morning by a fire which started in the basement of Fruitland, a store conducted by Louis Pantas at 40 Center street.

The blaze was confined to this basement but three establishments sustained damage because of dense smoke and members of three families, who live on the upper floors of the four-story brick building, were obliged to make their way to the street through smoke-filled halls.

The loss is estimated at \$2500, due almost entirely to smoke.

The origin of the fire is unknown. Ralph Bean, deputy chief of the fire department, stated that it might have been caused by an overheated furnace pipe. The proprietor of Fruitland left the store at 11 o'clock Saturday night and no one is known to have been in the place after that until the blaze was discovered.

### Clothing Stock Damaged.

The building is owned by Patrick F. Howley of Pleasant street. There are two stores on the ground floor besides the fruit market. One of these is vacant. The third, at the west end of the building, is occupied by the Rutland Clothing company. Although this establishment is some distance from the seat of the fire, a great deal of smoke found its way into the place through connecting cellars.

The fire was discovered by Policeman Carl A. Sears, who sent in an alarm from Box 45, Center and Wales streets, at 3:55 o'clock. The entire fire department, including the ladder truck, responded. The firemen were obliged to break into Fruitland in order to reach the basement and the smoke was so dense at first that it was difficult to find its source.

### Pile of Crates Afire.

A pile of crates and excelsior on the basement floor was found to be ablaze. One post supporting the floor above was burned somewhat and a smaller area of shelving in the fruit store was charred owing to flames finding their way through a furnace pipe which led to a hot air register.

The undertaking establishment of D. J. Canty, which is directly over the Fruitland, was filled with smoke and the stock was damaged somewhat. No water was used above the basement.

The fruit, vegetable and tobacco stocks in Fruitland were badly smoked.



MORNING, FEBRUARY 6, 1933.

## Valenty's House, Forest St. Burns

Fire, of undetermined origin broke out in the Nicholas Valenty house at 29 Forest street at 3.15 o'clock this morning. Flames gutted the two-story and a half dwelling. It was not until the fire was sufficiently under control to permit firemen to enter the building that it was definitely learned that no one was in the structure at the time.

When firemen arrived in response to a telephone call from Joseph Bellomo, next door neighbor, they found flames shooting from all the windows both on the first and second stories. Neighbors informed firemen that they believed the entire Valenty family were trapped in their beds. The progress of the flames was such when the fire was discovered that it would have been impossible for anyone to escape from the house.

Firemen learned, however, that Valenty is out of town and that Mrs. Valenty and two children spent the night at her parents' home, Tony Bizzarro, on Meadow street.

### FIREBUG BELIEVED TO HAVE WRECKED N. VALENTY'S HOME

State and City Investigators  
Discover Evidence of In-  
cendiarism in Ruins.

MYSTERIOUS PAIR  
HELD BY POLICE

New Yorkers Without Auto  
Registration Papers Are  
Under Suspicion.

Frank Capuano and John Sorento, both of Troy, N. Y., were arrested by Police Officer Warren G. Battles at about 1 o'clock this morning while driving through the city in a large expensive sedan. While they were arrested on the charge of intoxication and violation of the motor vehicle laws, it is understood they are also being held for Deputy State Fire Marshal A. G. Preble of Burlington, who wants to question them regarding the fire at the Nicholas Valenty home on Forest street.

Capuano is charged with intoxication, Sorento with driving while drunk and driving without registration papers for the car, which is not his property.

Local and state officials are convinced that the fire which early yesterday morning gutted the Nicholas Valenty home at 28 Forest street was of incendiary origin.

Deputy State Fire Marshal A. G. Preble of Burlington, when interviewed last night concerning the fire, said:

"There is no doubt in my mind that the fire at the Valenty house was set deliberately, but we have been unable to find any definite evidence which would incriminate any person. However, within a day or two, we expect an important development, if not a solution of the case."

A mysterious angle in the case developed at about 3 o'clock yesterday morning, when two men, who gave Troy, N. Y., addresses, drove up to a local hotel in a large, expensive sedan. They entered without baggage and nervously registered, asking to be called at 10 o'clock in the morning.

Their actions so stirred hotel employees that police were notified of their presence. The night clerk told police that when he asked the men where the fire was they replied that they knew nothing of a fire. The entire city's fire fighting apparatus had just passed along the street as the men entered the hotel, the clerk told police.

When the two men arose yesterday morning, State's Attorney Jack A. Crowley, State Detective Almo B. Franzoni, Deputy Sheriff Elwin Smith and Deputy Fire Chief R. R. Beane met them. For a considerable time the officers questioned the two men and then released them.

It is understood that the two men told conflicting stories as to their presence in this city.

An inquiry of Troy, N. Y., police authorities revealed that two men in that city, who are said to have con-

(Continued on Page Two.)

### FIREBUG BELIEVED TO HAVE WRECKED N. VALENTY'S HOME

(Continued From Page One.)

nections in Rutland, are known to have been mysteriously present at a number of fires which Troy authorities consider were of incendiary origin. The Troy officers were unable to definitely identify the two men who were questioned by Rutland authorities as the two men in question.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and Deputy Chief Beane conducted an investigation yesterday morning at the scene of the fire. Chief Koltonski said:

"Conditions which we found when we arrived at the Valenty house cause me to believe that the fire started from a peculiar origin."

Inquiry Continued.

The investigators were unable to learn what means were taken to start the fire. So complete was the work of the flames that practically everything inside the building was entirely consumed. The color of the flames and their intensity are believed to be evidence that they were not natural.

Deputy Marshal Preble will be called from the city today, but the investigation will be continued by Chief Koltonski.

The house is valued at \$6000 and the contents were appraised at \$3500. Practically all of the contents were destroyed and the house was damaged beyond the \$2000 mark.



RUTLAND DAILY HERALD, TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 4, 1933.

# DEPENDENCE DAY

1933



## FIRE DAMAGES HOME OF ROBERT SMITH

**Flames Break Out in Attic and Eat Their Way Through the Roof.**

Many hundred dollars damage was done to the home of Robert D. Smith, 67 Lincoln avenue, by a fire of undetermined origin which broke out in the attic about 11 o'clock yesterday morning.

Firemen battled intense heat and suffocating smoke for more than a half hour before the flames were subdued. A number of inch-and-a-half lines were used instead of the regulation hose to keep down damage by water. All furniture on the lower floors was covered with tarpaulins.

The flames apparently started in the north end of the attic near a set of shelves containing books and other articles. They worked up the inside of the roof and underneath the ridgepole to the south end of the building. It will be necessary to replace a large part of the roof, a number of holes being burned entirely through the covering.

Chief Alfred H. Koltowski and Fireman Martin Kelley, the first to arrive at the scene, withstood great punishment as they entered the attic by ladders thrust through a front window. Dense smoke, terrific heat and flying sparks burst forth in their faces.

### Two Alarms Sounded.

Two alarms were sounded for the fire. A telephone call was received at Central station at 11:12 o'clock and Box 14 was rung from the desk, because one crew of men were at dinner. At approximately the same instant, residents in the vicinity of the fire rung in a box alarm, No. 27. Many persons believed there were two fires.

It was the first call from outside of the city answered by the department since the aldermen adopted an ordinance a few weeks ago, providing that the fire trucks shall not be taken outside of Rutland except on the request of some responsible person and with the permission of the head of the department.

The ordinance provides that the city shall make a flat rate of \$50 for such a call, with an additional charge of \$25 an hour for every hour that the truck and its equipment are in use. Four men are sent under these conditions.

## MENDON RESIDENCE BURNS, LOSS \$15,000

**S. T. Hubbard Home Razed as Overheated Fat on Stove Causes Fire.**

### RUTLAND SENDS AID

The summer home of Dr. Samuel T. Hubbard of Hackensack, N. J., located in Mendon, was destroyed, with its contents late yesterday afternoon by fire which was caused by overheated fat. The loss is estimated at \$15,000.

The building was insured but there was little coverage on the furnishings.

Aid was sent by the Rutland fire department at the request of selectmen of Mendon, but the building was doomed by the time that the truck, carrying four men, reached the house, seven miles east of the city on the cross-state highway.

Mrs. Hubbard was alone in the building when the fire broke out. She had placed a kettle of fat on the kitchen stove and had left the room. When she returned a few minutes later, the kitchen was a mass of flames.

By the time that neighbors arrived, the fire had spread through the building and little could be salvaged.

Mrs. Hubbard, her son, Thatcher, and daughter, Marion, with their guests, Peter Gifford and Miss Louise Carroll of Fair Haven, had been staying at the summer residence. Dr. Hubbard was at Hackensack at the time.

The Hubbard family and guests spent last night in a small cottage on their own premises, friends having provided them with household necessities.

### Formerly Ranger Home.

The burned building was formerly the Reuben Ranger home. Dr. Hubbard bought the property about four years ago and had remodeled the house. It was one of the finest summer residences in Mendon.

The local firemen went to Mendon with the permission of James C. Dunn, commissioner of public safety.

It was the first call from outside of the city answered by the department since the aldermen adopted an ordinance a few weeks ago, providing that the fire trucks shall not be taken outside of Rutland except on the request of some responsible person and with the permission of the head of the department.

The ordinance provides that the city shall make a flat rate of \$50

## LIGGETT FIRE LOSS ESTIMATED AT \$2500

**Investigation Fails to Disclose Cause of Merchants Row Blaze.**

After an investigation lasting all day, Alfred H. Koltowski, chief of the fire department, and Ralph Bean, deputy chief, were unable last night to give the cause of the fire which damaged the basement of the Liggett drug store in the Combination Cash store building on Merchants Row early yesterday morning.

Damage to the store and fixtures were estimated at \$2500.

The fire, which originated in the basement of the Liggett store, did some damage to stock which was in the basement and also to goods belonging to the Combination Cash store in the adjoining basement. Smoke worked its way up through the partitions of the building into some of the offices on the second floor but did little damage.

The drug store was able to resume business yesterday.

## TWO AUTOS BURN AS BARN IS RAZED

**Gasoline Explosion Adds to Excitement at Fire on Woodstock Ave.**

A large barn, owned by Charles S. Fuller of 151 Woodstock avenue, was destroyed by flames about 10 o'clock last night. Two automobiles stored in the structure were nearly ruined. The origin of the blaze was undetermined.

A box alarm, sounded by a neighbor whose attention to the fire was attracted by a red glow in the sky, called several hundred spectators to the scene.

The crowd received a scare when gasoline in one of the automobiles exploded, shooting flames high into the air and scattering burning embers about the building. No one was injured.

Walter M. Oviatt of 151 Woodstock avenue was the owner of one of the vehicles.

Firemen were complimented upon checking the progress of the flames. Loss was estimated at \$1000.

## Lighted Cigarette Causes Fire Under Freight Platform

Firemen were called to the Rutland Railroad Freight house shortly after 6 o'clock last night to extinguish a blaze under the loading dock, believed to have been caused by a cigarette. Less than an hour later they were called to Traverse place to fight a partition fire in a house owned by Raffaele Moscatello and wife.

The fire under the freight loading dock at the freight yards, was discovered by a Rutland railroad brakeman who was working in the yard. Firemen believe that rubbish beneath the dock became ignited by a carelessly thrown cigarette butt.

The fire in the house on Traverse place, believed to have been caused by the spontaneous ignition of paint-soaked rags which fell from the attic, to the second floor, did damage estimated at \$500. Most of the fire was confined to the attic. No damage was done to furnishings on the second or first floor of the house.



# PREBLE TO PROBE BEER GARDEN FIRE

**Cause of Blaze in Evelyn  
Street Place Unknown;  
Loss About \$2000.**

Deputy State Fire Marshal A. G. Preble of Burlington is expected to arrive in Rutland today to assist in the investigation of a \$2000 fire which early yesterday morning gutted "The Place" beer garden on Evelyn street, operated by Ralph Whittaker of this city, formerly of Fair Haven.

The building, which for many years was known as the Parker & Ryan storehouse, was leased early in September by Arthur H. McGuirk and John Valente of Rutland.

The fire was first noticed about 7:10 o'clock in the morning by an employe of the Manning Gasoline station on Evelyn street, who telephoned in an alarm. Meanwhile, members of the Rutland fire department, with engine No. 1 and combination truck No. 3 were extinguishing a chimney fire at 68 Pine street.

Fire Chief A. H. Koltowski, C. I. Seward, Arthur Olson and James Rice responded to the Evelyn street call with one truck, and an alarm from box 44 was sounded from the transmitter at the fire station to notify the remainder of the department.

## Hot Air Explosion.

When the firemen reached the scene the flames, resulting from a hot air explosion, as it is believed, had burst through the plate glass windows in the front of the beer garden, with such force that a ladder directly across the street was scorched.

The firemen, handicapped by intense heat from the blaze, played four streams of water from two and one-half inch hose lines and two streams from inch and one-half lines on the flames. The exposure hazard was so serious that it was necessary to play streams of water as a cooling effect on the rear of the Chalmers store and warehouse, the Cut-Rate Shoe Repair shop and the Manning plant nearby.

The entire bar and draught equipment, a piano, radio, several tables and chairs were destroyed as the flames ate their way through the first floor of the structure. A few barrels of beer, which were located in the cellar were made unfit for drinking by the heat.

## Fire Starts in Floor.

The fire, the origin of which had not been determined last night by Chief Koltowski and Deputy Chief R. R. Bean, is believed to have started in the floor between the bar and the entrance to the cellar stairway. Police Officer Clayton H. Peer who patrolled Evelyn street at 6:40 o'clock yesterday morning, did not notice smoke or signs of fire coming from the building at that time.

Whittaker stated yesterday that the establishment was locked at midnight, Monday. A small fire was dying in the stove when he left, he said.

The building is owned by Mrs. Josephine Ryan and her son, Richard M. Ryan of State street. It had been vacant for several years following the death of Richard Ryan and Henry F. Parker, of the hardware and undertaking firm of Parker & Ryan, who used the structure as a storehouse for nearly 30 years. Prior to that time it was used by Maj. Levi G. Kingsley, father of Judge Harvey R. Kingsley, who conducted a hardware business.

Among the items in the attic over the beer garden which was not touched by the fire was an old ice-pack coffin, a relic of the days before embalming was generally practiced by undertakers.

12 22, 1933.

# RUTLAND GROCERY COMPANY LOSS BY FIRE OVER \$50,000

**Flames of Undetermined  
Origin Ruin Stock at  
Strong's Ave. Plant.**

**GARAGE BELIEVED  
SOURCE OF FIRE**

**Water Causes Heavy Dam-  
age to Perishable Goods  
in Basements.**

Fire, which originated in the truck storage quarters at the north end of the Rutland Grocery company's brick building at 43-45 Strong's avenue, caused damage believed to exceed \$50,000 to goods and fixtures about 10 o'clock last night.

The most serious loss was due to water which found its way into the two basements of the two-story building, where a large stock of perishable goods was stored.

P. F. Howley, president of the company, stated that the concern had recently put in storage a large consignment of flour. It is expected that this will be a total loss. The fire and water also reached canned goods and other commodities handled by the wholesalers.

The fire, just out of the heart of the business district, attracted a large crowd of spectators.

A general alarm summoned all of the city's fire-fighting apparatus and the firemen put up a hard battle to keep the flames from attacking wooden buildings and other business establishments in the vicinity.

Harrie E. Burton, secretary of the company, entered the smoke-filled office when the fire was at its height to save some of the company's records. He was overcome and was carried out of the structure.

The flames did not reach the office but they shot through the rest of the ground floor and crept up to the floor above.

Firemen were obliged to move two trucks belonging to the company from the garage at the north end of the building before entrance could be gained and water poured on to the hottest part of the fire.

The fire had entered the partitions in the main store before the men could direct the streams of water upon it.

The flames were attacked with three lines of hose from the front of the building and with other streams from the rear. Water also was poured in through holes cut in the roof.

Dense smoke hampered the work of the men and it was nearly an hour before the fire was under control.

The fire was discovered by a railroad man working on the tracks to the west of the grocery plant. He sent in an alarm. Some other person saw the fire and telephoned to the central station almost at the same time.

## News At a Glance

### DOMESTIC.

**RUTLAND**—Fire does more than \$50,000 damage at Rutland Grocery company plant.

JULY 9, 1934

# HOUSE ENDANGERED WHEN BARN BURNS

**Children and Matches Re-  
sponsible for \$500 Loss  
at Nott's Property.**

The house at 104 Granger street, occupied by Margaret H. Griffin, and also a barn on the same premises, were saved from destruction by prompt work of the fire department Saturday afternoon when a barn on adjoining property was razed by flames.

The fire was caused by children playing with matches, according to fire department records.

The barn which was destroyed stood in the rear of a house at 102 Granger street, occupied by Mrs. Angela C. Nott and family. The loss is estimated at \$500.

The fire department was called by an alarm from box 53 about 3:40 o'clock. It required a half hour's work to extinguish the flames.

When the trucks arrived the Nott barn rapidly was being consumed and within a few minutes the Griffin barn had caught fire. The Griffin home, a frame building, also was seriously endangered as flames leaped toward it.

The firemen were obliged to string a line of hose in order to cope with the situation.



## \$16,000 KINOX CO. FIRE ONE OF 7 IN SINGLE DAY HERE

Ice-Sheathed Firemen Battle  
Flames 5 Hours in  
Wales St. Building.

### FOUR CHIMNEY FIRES

Woman Risks Life to Rescue  
Two Kittens; One  
of Them Saved.

Seven fires, mostly due to conditions brought about by the extreme cold, caused heavy property damage in this city yesterday and kept the firemen on the jump from morning until night.

The heaviest loss was sustained by the Kinox company, manufacturers of proprietary medicines at 103 Wales street, where a fire that started about 3 o'clock in the afternoon in a garage in the basement caused damage of about \$16,000.

The flames spread quickly through the two-and-one-half story frame building and ruined the interior as well as the contents. The Kinox company occupied the ground floor, the upper portion of the building being used for rooming-house purposes.

The damage caused by the other fires of the day were not serious although flames, believed to have been set accidentally by a plumber's torch, spread through partitions of the home of Enzo Cagagli at 80 South street before they could be stopped.

The firemen answered a call about noon from the Rutland ice cream parlor at 31 Center street, operated by Joseph A. Segale, when a fire was started by persons attempting to thaw frozen water pipes. There was little damage and the trucks were back at the stations within a few minutes.

#### Four Chimney Fires.

Calls also were answered during the day because of chimney fires in houses at 13 Vernon street, 68 River street, 118 South street and in a dwelling as the intersection of Franklin and Granger streets.

Robert W. Hoag of Madison street, president of the Kinox company, discovered the fire in the Wales street building at about 2:55 o'clock yesterday afternoon when he smelled smoke which appeared to be coming from the basement at the rear of the structure. Upon investigation, it was found that flames had already gained great headway.

Firemen from the central station at the City hall, only a few hundred feet away, and from the uptown firehouse were soon on the scene. They battled the flames for five hours before getting them under control.

The flames quickly ate their way through partitions to the roof, and, because of the high wind, the fire was the most difficult to handle of any which has occurred in the city in months.

#### Risks Life for 2 Kittens.

Mrs. Florence Rea, who occupied the upper floor of the Wales street building, jeopardized her life by remaining in the burning structure until the fire was well underway because she did not wish to abandon two kittens to the flames. Finally she was induced to leave, carrying a small white dog. She looked back continually and called to her kittens.

Later in the afternoon, a fireman rescued one of the kittens from a window ledge after it had been hit on the head by flying glass. The other cat was not found.

Four persons were working with Hoag in the Kinox plant at the time the fire broke out. They were able to save only a few articles from the company's quarters. Hoag estimated his loss at \$7000 in stock and \$1000 in an automobile. The building, owned by Mrs. W. W. Smith of Madison street was damaged to the extent of about \$8000. Mrs. Rea lost all of her furnishings and most of

her personal effects. She could not estimate her loss last night.

#### Spectacular Scene.

Scores of spectators stood about braving sub-zero weather, to watch the progress of the fire as it worked from the basement through to the cupola at the peak of the roof. Dense smoke and clouds of steam, gleaming in the sunlight, presented a spectacular scene as firemen rushed about laying hose and setting ladders.

Considerable interest was shown when the aerial ladder was put into operation in order to get water to the flames, leaping high from the cupola.

Within a few minutes after arriving at the scene, most of the firemen were sheathed in ice. Their helmets were heavily coated while their jackets were rendered "stiff as boards." None of the men suffered from frostbite, smoke or flying glass.

The low temperatures also handicapped the firemen in replacing the hose on the trucks after returning to the station. It was late in the night before all of the several hundred feet of line was dried and replaced on the trucks.

## DENTAL EQUIPMENT DAMAGED BY FLAMES

Bruce Coolidge Sustains  
Loss When Fire Starts  
From Vulcanizer.

Fire at the dental office of Dr. Bruce N. Coolidge on the second floor of the Gryphon building on Merchants Row caused loss of several hundred dollars yesterday noon. Equipment was damaged and the walls of the office were scorched.

The flames originated from an overheated vulcanizing apparatus, in the laboratory. The flames gained headway rapidly and smoked filled adjoining offices, and also the stockroom of the Carbone Clothing company below.

Hand chemical extinguishers and a "booster" line of hose were used by firemen in extinguishing the fire.

APRIL 11, 1934

## Cahee's Damaged \$5000 By Flames; 7 Fires In Day

### STOCK RUINED

100 VCC Foresters and  
Many CWA Workers  
Aid Department in  
Battling Brush Fire  
on Pine Hill.

### 120 ACRES BURN

Bald Mt. Lookout Post-  
ed by Aitken Forest  
Camp Due to Dry  
Conditions; Forest  
Patrols Urged.

Eight alarms, two for serious blazes, gave Rutland firemen their busiest day yesterday of any day in recent years. Damage of more than \$5000 was caused to the furniture stock of the Cahee House Furnishing company on Merchants Row by fire last night. For more than three hours during the afternoon, the firemen, aided by 100 VCC men, all the city's call firemen, many CWA workers and scores of volunteers, battled wind-driven flames in brush at Pine Hill park.

Four of the eight calls were for minor grass fires at Granger and South streets, School street, Thrall avenue and Fairview avenue. One call was for a chimney blaze and a general box alarm at 1:19 o'clock in the afternoon, was a false one.

When firemen received simultaneous alarms by telephone and box for the fire in the Cahee stockroom, the flames had gained great headway in the rambling frame building.

Dense smoke, walled in between the Ross-Huntress and Spencer blocks, added to the difficulty of combatting the blaze. Burning tin cans loaded the smoke with choking gas fumes.

#### Business Blocks Menaced.

Within a few minutes after arriving, the firemen had subdued the flames to a point where they were no longer a menace to the Spencer and Ross-Huntress blocks and a house at the rear of the Cahee establishment. Less than a half hour after the sounding of the alarm, the fire had been reduced to a few smoldering embers.

The Cahee company had new stock valued at hundreds of dollars in the storeroom, which was the seat of the fire. This is located at the rear of the main store.

Smoke caused considerable damage in the store, the Wise Dress shop and the Fashion Shop as well as in other nearby stores.

Commissioner of Public Safety James C. Dunn took an active part in the handling of the crowd at the fire and in assisting the firemen.

#### Hard Fight on Hill.

The call for the fire on Pine hill was received at the station at 3:20 o'clock. It was not until 6:45 that the fire was entirely extinguished.

The 100 VCC men from the Aitken State Forest camp in Mendon under the direction of Superintendent William H. Radigan, made the fighting of the raging brush fire a holiday. However, their services were of great value to the firemen, who, after two hours of racing along the widespread burning front, were beginning to tire. The VCC men arrived about 5 o'clock and worked for an hour and a half.

Using shovels, brooms and Indian pack pumps, the veterans, firemen and volunteers headed off the advancing flames and checked the fire's progress a short distance from the city's plantation of 30,000 young red pines and Norway spruce trees. However, before the fire was headed, it burned over an area of 120 acres of brushland.

The fire started at the north end of Hazel street and advanced rapidly, driven by a heavy southeast wind.

#### Men Carry Water.

Several thousand gallons of water was carried in pack tanks from springs and Rocky pond to combat the flames. Husky VCC men took this strenuous work as a game, speeding the refilling of the tanks.

Large crowds of spectators were attracted to Pine hill by the smoke which poured out over the woodlands to the northwest of the city. This was visible for long distances. Many men who went to Pine hill as spectators became volunteer firemen when they saw that the flames were getting beyond control.



MONDAY MORNING, MAY 7, 1934.

## CAUSE OF FIRE AT ROWE AND RUSSELL FARMS NOT KNOWN

Two Creameries and House  
Among Buildings Lost  
in \$35,000 Fire.

### CITY PUMPER FAILS

10-Year-Old Engine Stalls  
as Flames Rage; West  
Rutland Sends Help.

An investigation yesterday by fire department officials failed to uncover the cause of a blaze in Mill Village Saturday afternoon which destroyed the home and creamery of Arnold Rowe, also razed the creamery and damaged the home of Ray Russell, and for a time threatened to spread to several other nearby houses. The loss is estimated at \$35,000.

The fire broke out in a barn, located in the rear of the Rowe home, and fanned by a high wind spread rapidly to the house.

The blaze at the Rowe place was discovered at 1.06. A pumper was dispatched at once from Station 1. While the pumper was on its way to the Rowe home an alarm was turned in from Baxter street, where a garage was afire near the Costa store. The department's other pumper was sent to this fire.

#### Pumper Fails.

Firemen on the apparatus sent to the Rowe home made arrangements to pump water from East Creek. Hose was laid and the engine of the pumper started. It had been running only a few seconds when it stopped dead. The firemen were unable to get water while the flames made rapid headway.

A call was put in for the West Rutland fire department, which had its pumper and crew on the spot within 15 minutes.

Meanwhile the pumper, sent to fight the garage fire on Baxter street, arrived at the Rowe home and soon had water on the burning buildings.

Fire Chief Koltonski said last night that mud sucked up from the creek, had clogged a spring in the relief valve of the pumper, causing it to go "dead."

The pumper is fully 10 years old.

#### Flames Spread Rapidly.

The speed with which the flames spread from the barn, where the fire started, to the Rowe home and creamery and the Russell home and creamery was astonishing.

Mr. and Mrs. Alden W. Peters who made their home on the second floor of the Rowe house had no time to save any clothing or furniture. Rowe was able to save some of his furniture.

Two automobiles were destroyed and a horse, a valuable police dog

(Continued on Page Two.)

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(Continued From Page One.)

and 18 chickens perished as the flames destroyed the Rowe barn.

In addition to losing his creamery, Russell's barn and garage were also ruined by the flames.

Intense heat was created and the Russell home caught fire several times. Nearby residents were warned to keep water on the roofs and walls of their homes.

A milk pasteurizing plant, recently installed, was destroyed when the flames whipped their way through the Rowe creamery.

Had it not been for the work of the West Rutland fire department, directed by Chief Charles Montgomery and Assistant Chief Patrick Phalen, the fire might have caused much more damage. It was the West Rutland department that kept water on the Russell house.

The heat was so intense that Fireman Raymond Carroll was overcome. Dr. Robert P. Williams attended him.

#### Traffic Rerouted.

Traffic was rerouted to Pittsford, no cars being allowed to proceed north or south through Mill Village. This condition existed for four hours.

The firemen were not able to leave the Rowe place until early in the evening, the West Rutland department taking over the job of wetting down the smoldering ruins.

Rowe was at home alone. His wife and son were in Worcester and had planned to return home yesterday. Rowe knew nothing about the fire in his barn, until a neighbor called him and said he saw some smoke, coming out of the place. When Rowe opened the doors a sheet of flame poured out.

The dog, "Lobo" stayed with Rowe's old horse until his ears were burned off and he was entirely in flames. The horse was used by Rowe in his early days of peddling milk.

Both Rowe and Russell did a large retail milk business in the city. Owners Reported Ill.

Both were ill at their homes yesterday and could not be reached for statements in reference to their plans for the future.

The Peters' family, which lived upstairs in the Rowe home, owned a small coupe, destroyed when the barn burned.

Chief Koltonski said he had no idea what caused the blaze. There was no fire kept in the barn.

A sedan, owned by Henry Costa, was destroyed and the garage ruined in the fire at Baxter street. Loss is estimated \$1000.

## SOUTH STREET FIRE CAUSES \$6000 LOSS

Flames Spread to Home of  
Salvatore Gallo; Two  
Motor Trucks Ruined.

### STARTS IN GARAGE

Fire, believed to have started in a garage attached to the home of Salvatore Gallo at 158 South street, caused damage estimated at more than \$6000 about 10.30 o'clock last night. Neighbors, awakened by the bright reflection of the flames, aroused members of two families who were asleep in the burning structure. No one was injured.

Firemen battled the stubborn blaze for more than an hour before they were able to bring it under control.

Gallo and his family occupied the ground floor while the family of Vincent Bernardo lived in the upper tenement.

When the flames were discovered, they had spread from two motor trucks in the garage, through a shed joining the garage to the dwelling and were making rapid headway in the rear end of the two-story house.

Three streams of water were used on the building. Dense smoke hampered the firemen until a number of windows were broken to provide ventilation.

The damage resulted from the destruction of the two motor trucks, the garage, a shed filled with firewood and tools and the burning of the rear of the dwelling. Furnishings on both floors of the house were drenched.

The reflection of the flames was seen by motorists as far away as North Clarendon and a large crowd of spectators was attracted.

The firemen were summoned at first by telephone but a whistle alarm was sounded when it was found that callmen were needed.

## MOTORCAR CRASHES INTO SIDE OF TRAIN

Ernest Spafford Escapes  
With Slight Injuries in  
Crossing Accident.

Ernest Spafford of Cold River road narrowly escaped death early yesterday morning when an automobile which he was driving ran into the side of the Boston-bound Rutland railroad sleeper train at the Allen street crossing in the south end of the city. The accident occurred about 2.20 o'clock.

Spafford was taken to Rutland hospital where he was treated by Dr. W. H. Grinnell for burns, cuts and bruises. He was discharged late in the afternoon.

An automobile, registered in the name of Beecher & Guthrie, Pawlet, which he was driving according to police records, caught fire and the fire department was called out to extinguish the blaze. An alarm was sent in from Box 31 at the fairgrounds.

Spafford was burned on one hand. He also sustained a scalp wound and a number of bruises.

According to police and official

## FIRE DAMAGES STORE IN BERWICK BLOCK

Singer Sewing Machine Co.  
Loss \$2500; Smoke Also  
Fills Barbershop.

### CAUSE NOT KNOWN

Fire of undetermined origin caused damage estimated at \$2500 to the store of the Singer Sewing company, 47 Center street, early last night. The store is located on the ground floor of the Hotel Berwick building, at the west end, and smoke found its way into many of the hotel rooms on the second floor.

The Hotel Berwick Barber shop, located between the main entrance to the hotel and the sewing machine headquarters, also became filled with dense smoke.

The fire was discovered by Robert C. Boynton, proprietor of the Berwick, who noticed the reflection of the flames while he was in the diningroom about 7 o'clock. He hurried to the kitchen, believing that the fire was there but soon learned that it was located in the rear of the Singer store, a few yards to the west.

Members of the fire department, summoned by John Stephens, assistant manager, found that the flames were eating their way through a partition on the ground floor and had nearly reached the second story. They were checked, however, before damage had extended beyond the ground floor, most of the loss being confined to the storeroom.

Walter M. Oviatt, Singer manager, stated last night that valuable machine cabinets had been destroyed. He was unable to set the amount of damage.

Corrugated packing boxes, cotton padding and yard goods, which were consumed caused dense smoke. This is believed to have caused greater loss than the flames.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, who directed the fighting of the fire, was unable, after a preliminary investigation last night, to determine the cause of the fire. He said that an inspection had been made in the store scarcely a week ago and that there were no fire hazards at that time.

railroad reports, the automobile struck the rapidly moving train near the point where the locomotive tender was joined to the front of the first car, which carried mail.

Engineer Frank Miner and Conductor Edward H. Killary of this city and other members of the train crew were not aware that there had been a collision until the train stopped at Bellows Falls where a message from Rutland awaited them. Broken glass, probably from the

automobile windshield, was found on the front platform of the mailcar, railroad officials said.

A motorist who was in a motorcar behind that operated by Spafford assisted the injured driver in extricating himself from the flaming wreckage and took him to the hospital.

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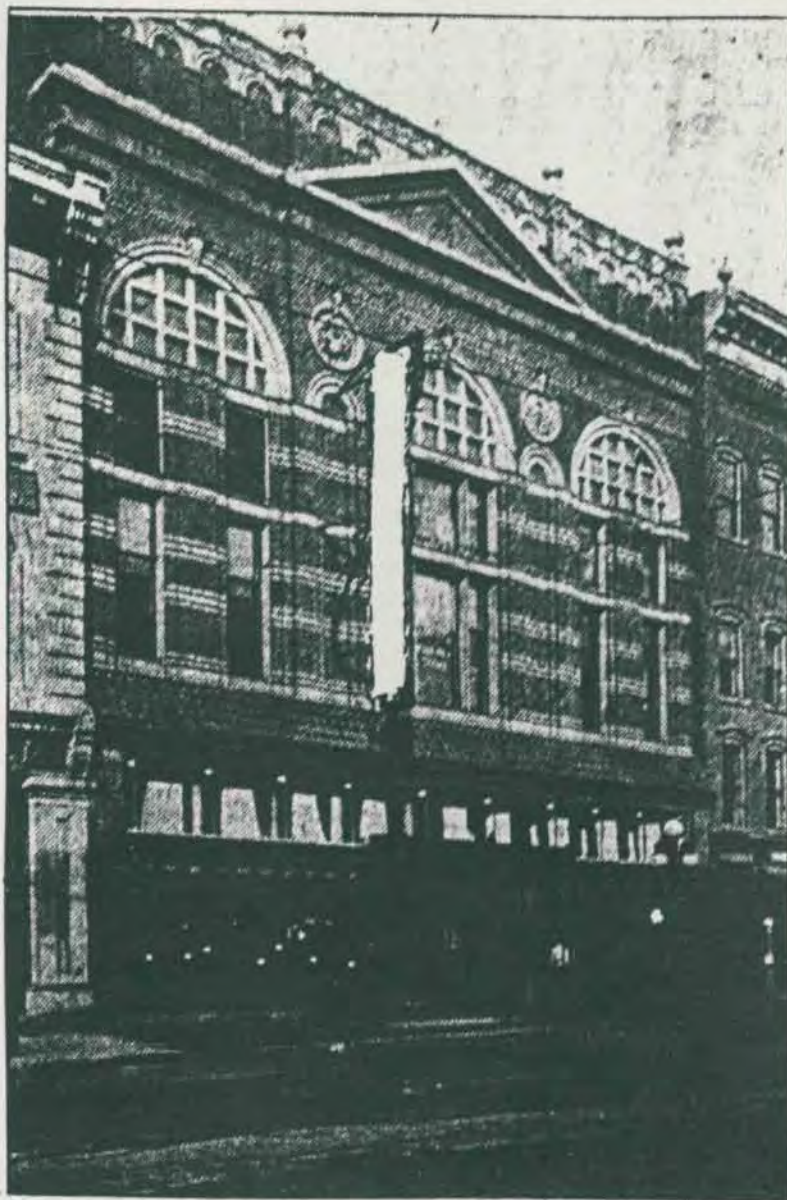
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## Where Fire Broke Out Last Night



Fire of undetermined origin caused damage estimated at approximately \$25,000 in the Atlantic & Pacific, Varsity Men's Shop and Economy store on Merchants Row last night. The Atlantic & Pacific store is located in the northern part of the building, shown above. The Varsity shop occupies the southern half of the street floor and the Economy store the upper floors. The building was once the old Opera House and was later occupied by the Surprise Department store.

## R. C. SPENCER HOME DAMAGED BY FIRE

Entire Fire Dept. Called  
to 55 Elm St. at 1.30  
A. M.; Loss \$500.

All fire fighting apparatus of the city as well as all call firemen were summoned at 1.30 o'clock this morning to the home of Raymond C. Spencer at 55 Elm street, when fire broke out in a partition behind a fireplace on the first floor of the two and one-half story house. Although still smouldering at 2.30 o'clock, the blaze was believed to be under control.

The flames, evidently starting from a defective fireplace in the library of the Spencer home, crept up through the partition behind the fireplace to the attic, which was soon entirely ablaze shortly afterward and the flames broke through the roof. Furniture in the Spencer home as well as in the second floor apartment of Leon C. Epeneter was moved out to the homes of neighbors.

Damage from fire and water was expected to exceed \$500.

# Merchants Row Menaced By Fire In A & P Store

## Coincidence!

When the fire alarm sounded at 9.30 o'clock last night Fireman George Regan was engaged in instructing a Red Cross class at the Vermont Hydroelectric plant in the correct use of an inhalator upon persons overcome by immersion, smoke or gases. Regan left the class for the fire.

Less than one-half hour later members of the fire department were using an inhalator on Regan, who was overcome by smoke while inside the Atlantic & Pacific store during last night's serious fire.

He was later treated at Rutland hospital by Dr. F. E. Quigley.

## DAMAGE OF \$25,000

Flames Start in Basement of Chain Store; Smoke Seeps Into the Varsity and Economy Quarters.

## REGAN OVERCOME

Fireman Taken to Hospital for Treatment After He Collapses in Dense Smoke; Cause of Fire Unknown.

Damage, estimated at more than \$25,000, was done to three retail stores in the center of the business section at about 9.30 o'clock last night by fire which started in the basement of the Atlantic & Pacific Tea company grocery store on the west side of Merchants Row. For a time, a large portion of the business section was threatened. One fireman, George Regan, was overcome by smoke.

Stores damaged were the Atlantic & Pacific Tea company, the Varsity Men's shop, and the Economy store. Aside from the grocery store, where flames wreaked havoc in the rear end, damage was caused principally by smoke.

A huge crowd gathered quickly, after the sounding of the box alarm at the intersection of Center street and Merchants Row, the center of the business section. Many spectators were endangered by falling glass and the movement of ladders and hoses.

Due to the lateness of the hour, it was impossible last night to learn the exact figures. However, it was stated by Raymond Whitcomb of Glens Falls, superintendent of the Rutland Atlantic & Pacific district, that the grocery store loss would be about \$7500.

Charles Ginsburg, an official of the Varsity Men's shop organization, said that stock in that store was inventoried at more than \$25,000. Smoke permeated the entire store and water reached a small portion at the rear.

It was impossible to obtain from William I. Ginsburg, head of the Economy store, an estimate of his loss. However, smoke seeped throughout the four floors of the main store and the two floors of the annex which was located directly over the grocery store and the Varsity shop.

### Smoke Impedes Firemen.

Dense, black clouds of smoke poured from the transom over the entrance to the grocery store when firemen arrived. The clouds rose upward nearly obscuring the view of the front of the building, which was formerly the Opera House structure and later the Surprise department store building.

Alarm was given by a Red Cross field worker, here from Washington,

## MERCHANTS ROW MENACED BY FIRE IN A. & P. STORE

(Continued From Page One.)

D. C. He was driving south along the street when he discovered the clouds of smoke. He raced his car to the fire station, his horns blaring out a warning to clear his path. The alarm was sounded from the manual control at the station.

The firemen were unable to enter the store upon arrival, so dense was the smoke. After a number of windows and doors had been opened and ventilation had been established on the roof, hose lines were taken inside. The fire, which was spreading toward the front of the building, was driven backward.

Meanwhile other crews of fire fighters battled the flames from the rear. Within a few minutes all visible flames were subdued. However, investigation showed that the flames were making rapid headway within a closed elevator shaft. Crews were dispatched to extinguish all signs of fire for the entire length of the shaft. The flames did not reach higher than the beams of the second floor, except on one corner of the shaft.

### Extinguished in Hour.

Except for the sorting over of canned goods in the rear of the grocery store to get at every spark, the fire was out within an hour after the sounding of the alarm. However, last night investigation had not determined the cause of the blaze. It is known to have started in the basement of the grocery store, according to Chief Alfred H. Koltonski.

O. H. Loveland, manager of the grocery store, told Chief Koltonski that he left the place of business scarcely more than an hour before the sounding of the alarm. He said that the basement at the rear of the store was used for receiving stock and was filled with packing cases and empty cartons.

Rutland firemen were assisted by a Montpelier callman who is working in Rutland. He is Lawrence Gauthier, an employee of the state income tax bureau.



# STORE, TENEMENT DAMAGED BY FIRE

**Firemen Have Hard Battle  
Conquering Flames in  
Granger St. Building.**

Fire of undetermined origin early Saturday morning swept through the Granger Street Cash store and the upstairs tenement of the proprietor, Charles Bizzarro, doing damage estimated at \$1500.

The blaze, believed to have originated near a stove located in the center of the store, had spread to a nearby pile of automobile tires, then to a row of shelves in the rear of the room, followed a drainpipe to the second floor and was eating its way in the partitions toward the attic when the firemen arrived, shortly before 3.20 o'clock in response to an alarm from Box 63.

They battled the flames with a stream from a line of hose, augmented by two booster lines, for more than an hour, ripping out smoldering flooring and partitions in the living quarters, before returning to the station.

Less than an hour later a telephone call again summoned them to the scene, the blaze having rekindled itself in some charred timbers in a partition between the kitchen and dining room. This time the men worked for nearly an hour and a half, tearing out more sections of the partitions, before finally extinguishing the flames.

Furniture in the kitchen and dining room was badly damaged by the heat and smoke and a small amount of stock in the store was thoroughly drenched by water.

The fire was discovered by Mrs. Bizzarro, who was awakened by a strong odor of smoke. The building is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clinton H. Nason of Granger street.

The firemen answered two calls within half an hour yesterday morning. The first call was received at 8.50 o'clock from the home of Mrs. Frank Bishop, 166 State street, where a chimney was burning out. The fire had smothered itself by the time the truck arrived.

At 9.15 o'clock they were summoned to the upstairs apartment of Ross W. Kelley, 38 Strong's avenue. An overheated stovepipe, leading from the kitchen range, was the source of the call. The pipe was dismantled and emptied of the smoldering soot. There was no damage in either instance.

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 23, 1936.

# VALIQUETTE BLOCK DAMAGED BY FLAMES

**Part of Business District  
Threatened by Fire of  
Undetermined Source.**

**LOSS SET AT \$3500**

Buildings in the heart of the Rutland business district, valued at many thousands of dollars, were threatened by a fire of undetermined origin which caused damage estimated at \$3500 to the two-story Valiquette block, 67 1/2 Center street, yesterday afternoon at 5.30 o'clock.

The flames broke out at a time when many men and women were en route home from stores and offices and traffic was jammed at the intersection of Wales and Center streets and even on Washington street, a block south, as the fire siren and clouds of black smoke rolling from the burning building attracted hundreds to the scene.

Another small building, at 65 Center street, owned by Mrs. Felicia Romano of this city, was slightly damaged. The Valiquette building, the property of Mrs. Mary D. Valiquette, who has an apartment in the building, comprised two stores and three apartments. There are two sheds in the rear.

The flames, starting in a shed, ate their way from the ground floor to the roof of the structure, charring the walls at the rear and the roof. The most serious damage was done in the apartment of Mrs. Valiquette. Furniture also was burned and woodwork scorched in the adjoining apartments occupied by John Cleary and Carl Waterlund.

Frank P. Riggs, who conducts a shoe-repairing shop on the ground floor, estimates his loss at \$100. The other store is vacant.

Nobody was injured.

Assistant Fire Chief Ralph Bean, acting in the absence of Fire Chief A. H. Koltonski said last night that the fire was of undetermined origin. He stated that it might have been started by a cigarette in some rubbish under the back stairway of the Valiquette building.

**Alarm Given By Phone.**

Several persons claim to have seen the flames first. Firemen said last night that the first voice to give the alarm by telephone was that of a woman, although a man's voice cut in on the wire, saying of the blaze "and boy, it's a real one."

Miss Mildred Valiquette, daughter of the owner of the building and a teacher at the Longfellow school, said, that she was in the front part of the apartment on the second floor when she heard the crackling of the flames. She sent a message to the firemen by telephone, then warned the occupants.

**Boston Fireman Helps.**

A Boston fireman, here on his vacation, rang in an alarm from Box 45 shortly afterwards, then went to work with the local firemen as they arrived. He was dressed in white flannels but was right in the thick of the fire-fighting.

The first efforts of the firemen were to protect surrounding buildings. These included the County jail on one side and the D. J. Anthony store on the corner of Wales and Center.

The entire city fire department fought the blaze and succeeded, by using water from five lines of hose, in stopping it.

A small nearby building, also owned by Mrs. Valiquette and housing Van's Sandwich shop, was threatened for a time but firemen soon protected it. Once they had made the building safe they hoisted their ladders on it and worked over to the roof of the large Valiquette building, drenching the roof and using their axes to get through into the upper story.

Meantime, other firemen were playing the streams on the sheds back of the building, making their entrance through a narrow passage way from Wales street.

The battle lasted 45 minutes.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 16, 1936.

# MAN ESCAPES FIRE TWICE IN A NIGHT

**E. Paul Driven From His  
Bed at 1 o'clock and  
Again at 5.15.**

E. L. Paul of 11 Crampton avenue was only practicing when he escaped from the flames, which were raging on the first floor of his home, by jumping off the roof of his front porch early yesterday morning.

Four hours later fire again broke out in the house, and again caught Paul off his guard. The second time he was asleep on an improvised bed in the front room downstairs, and firemen were already putting water on the blaze when Paul was aroused. As the firemen entered the house filled with smoke for the second time in four hours, they found Paul getting to his feet and preparing for his second hasty exit.

The second fire resulted from a rekindle of the first. Sometimes embers fall into crannies in the wall partitions and are invisible to the firemen. Short of tearing a house apart there is no way of finding the embers, which consequently smolder slowly until they break out anew. A captain of the Rutland department explained to a Herald reporter that once in a long while after a small partition fire has been put out a wisp of smoke betrays an ancient rekindle. In such a case the department is notified and quickly stops the outbreak.

Yesterday morning, however, Paul went soundly to sleep and was unaware of the danger.

While the firemen spared the house in their first encounter yesterday, they took no chances the second time and were forced to give it a thorough overhauling.

The department has put in a busy week of fire fighting. On Monday night there were blazes at Elm and Maple streets, and a false alarm at the railroad yards. Tuesday afternoon engine 1 responded to a barn fire, resulting from burning grass, on the East Proctor road.



PRII 14, 1936.

## INFANT NARROWLY ESCAPES DEATH IN MAPLE ST. FIRE

Maxine Lubinsky Carried  
From Smoke-Filled Room  
by Myron Minard.

### ALONE IN TENEMENT

Firemen Respond to 3 Night  
Alarms; Gas Thieves Are  
Blamed for One Blaze.

A 10-months old baby narrowly escaped death about 9.30 o'clock last night on Maple street in the second of three fires, which called out the Rutland fire department in the space of three hours. The apparatus rolled each time on a box alarm.

Little Maxine Lubinsky, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lubinsky, was carried to safety from her crib on the second floor of the house at 142 Maple street, when fire believed to have been started in a carton filled with hot ashes, menaced the dwelling.

The fire started in the Lubinsky's apartment and when Myron Minard, who lives downstairs under the Lubinskys, reached the child, the flames were raging through the rear portion of the second story of the house.

Minard, who lives in the downstairs quarters of the two-family house, smelled smoke and went out back to investigate. He saw the reflection of flames in a window at the rear of the Lubinsky apartment. Hoping to extinguish the fire, he started up the back hall stairway, but was driven back by smoke and flames. He then ran around to the front of the house and went up the stairway.

The child was crying in its crib, smoke was pouring into the room and the crackle of flames in an adjoining room could plainly

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The child was crying in its crib, smoke was pouring into the room and the crackle of flames in an adjoining room could plainly be heard.

#### Carries Child to Safety.

Minard took the child downstairs to safety and ran back upstairs. He opened a door to the room adjoining the child's room and smoke and flames rushed out at him.

He ran downstairs and put in a call for the fire department. By this time Charlotte Maranville, a young girl, had also called the firemen.

The firemen laid a line of hose and had the blaze under control in about 20 minutes. A pipe, leading to the gas stove, had broken off and the fumes became ignited. However, the gas did not have opportunity to collect and cause an explosion.

Minard's four children, Patricia, 7, Shirley, 5, Laura, 4, and Lee, a seven-months old boy, who were downstairs when the fire started, were taken from the house when their father went upstairs for the second time. Minard said he made this second trip to determine whether he could do anything to halt the flames while the firemen were on their way to the place. The Lubinsky child's mother had stepped out of the house for a short time while the father was not at home.

Damage to the property is estimated at about \$1000.

The call to Maple street was the second alarm of the evening.

#### Gas Thieves Blamed.

Gasoline thieves were blamed by fire department officials for a blaze which broke out on Elm street about 8.30.

The fire originated in a wood-sawing apparatus, housed in a shed in the rear of the residence of H. F. Seward on Elm street. It is the belief of the fire officials that the thieves were surprised in the act of siphoning gasoline from the storage tank of the wood machine and that

one of them dropped a lighted match or cigarette into the fluid, causing a rush of flame which ignited the shed and connecting building.

The flames were extinguished without difficulty. The loss will not exceed \$200, but in the beginning of the blaze there was grave danger of a general conflagration inasmuch as the shed, which caught fire, was in the rear of a house and in the very heart of a thickly populated section.

Members of the police department last night redoubled their efforts to track down the gang of thieves who, in the past few weeks, have caused Rutland motorists much difficulty.

The blotter at police headquarters lists a number of gas-thievery complaints, many of which were registered by out-of-state travelling men who were stopping overnight at a Main street hotel.

Shortly after 11 o'clock last night a box alarm from the north end of the Rutland railroad yard called out the firemen. This time it was a false alarm.

APRIL 1, 1936.

## MANNING CO. PLANT THREATENED BY FIRE

Blaze, Quickly Quelled by  
Firemen, Damages Boiler  
Room and Power Unit.

Fire of undetermined origin did considerable damage to the boiler room and power plant of the Manning Manufacturing company at the corner of Cleveland avenue and Crescent street yesterday afternoon.

Firemen, arriving in response to two separate alarms, found the ceiling of the one-floor structure a mass of flames. A thin but acrid smoke, possibly coming from kerosene with which employees had been cleaning machinery, hampered the firemen at the outset.

While one crew stretched a hose line into the heart of the fire, another raised ladders and went to the roof to open up and allow the dangerous heat and fumes to escape. Fireman Martin F. Kelly received a slight laceration on the face.

A crowd gathered quickly as truck after truck raced to the scene of Rutland's largest blaze this year. The city's entire fire fighting force was called into action and made short work of what might have been a much more serious fire.

A factory building and a lumber yard, both belonging to the Manning concern, presented dangerous exposure of the south and west sides of the fire, but at no time were they actually threatened, as the firemen closed in on the flames.

Chief Alfred H. Koltonski estimated that the damage would run to nearly \$1000. He said that while the exact origin of the fire was undetermined the outbreak was probably caused by fire from one of the furnaces igniting the accumulation of fine sawdust under the ceiling. The plant uses its own sawdust as fuel and a large pile in one end of the building was saved from the flames.

The department laid three lines of hose and used two of them. Two ladders were raised to the roof and all hands worked.

The fire got such a quick start that two separate alarms were turned in, the first from Crescent street and Geno avenue at 3.13 o'clock and the second from Park street and Cleveland avenue.

JANUARY 18, 1934.

## SERVICE STATION DAMAGED BY FLAMES

Fire Starting From Alcohol Fumes Causes \$1000  
Loss at Burke Plant.

Fire, believed to have been caused by fumes of the contents of a five-gallon can of alcohol becoming ignited accidentally, damaging the stock of Burke Bros. Service station at the intersection of Strong's avenue and River street about 7.30 o'clock yesterday morning and also caused loss on the building.

The loss was estimated at \$1000. This was due more to smoke and water than to flames.

Thomas Burke, proprietor of the station, after kindling a fire in a stove, went momentarily to a room in the rear of the building. When he returned, flames were shooting ceilingward from the alcohol container. Hesitant about throwing the can out of the door because of the probability of igniting the oil in nearby gasoline tanks, Burke grabbed the contents of the cash register and the account book's safe across the street and sent in a fire alarm.

The firemen found a hot fire in progress but it was extinguished after considerable water had been poured into the building. The flames charred the walls at the front of the station and reached the stock of tires and automobile accessories.

Tenants living in a other part of the building were able to make their way to safety without difficulty and sustained no loss except from smoke.

4/27/36

## Spring Brings a Load of Work to Rutland Firemen

Rags aflame in the shed of the residence of Albert E. Garafano and Joseph Foti, 23 Temple street, hurried Rutland firemen out of bed at 4.55 o'clock yesterday morning.

Spontaneous combustion of rubbish and rags in a corner of the shed of the residence evidently started the fire which damaged only a wall partition and a small portion of the ceiling in the shed.

The firemen laid a line of hose, and put out the flames in the rubbish.

The first day of the annual four-day siege of spring house cleaning at the local station was interrupted by three calls later in the day. At 9.44 o'clock in the morning the men had to put down the ammonia and dash off to 54 East street. It was a chimney fire. Again at 10.34 o'clock they climbed down from the half-washed windows and rushed to a grass fire near 43 North Main street. The next call came at 1.45 o'clock in the afternoon when a brush fire on Pine hill near the upper end of Evergreen avenue, gave them the longest workout of the day. A gang of 60 road workers helped the fire fighters turn back the flames in the Pine hill brush.

The second day of spring cleaning will get off to an early start this morning, barring any dangerous calls, when the fire fighters start to polish up the ancient pictures of past fire fighters who once took their turns at spring cleaning in the same cheerful way.



# Cry of "Fire" At The Paramount Brings Near Panic

## MAN IS SOUGHT

Small Portion of Film  
Bursts Into Flame in  
Projection Room and  
Flash Therefrom Is  
Thrown on Screen.

## MADRUSH RESULTS

Firemen and Theater  
Ushers Aid in Calm-  
ing Crowd; Projec-  
tionist Is Given Oxy-  
gen.

"No fumes or smoke escaped into the theater," Koltonski said. "The people were in no danger and there was no need of the patrons becoming frightened or even leaving their seats."

The chief complimented the theater staff on its handling of the crowds. "The ushers were cool, took their posts immediately and tried their best to induce the people to stop pushing and to go out calmly," he said.

ed the would have been no trouble had not the unknown person cried "Fire."

"That is a terrible thing to do. I wish we knew who is responsible," he said.

Mayor Henry H. Branchaud was greatly concerned over the occurrence. He declared that every effort would be made to learn the identity of the person responsible for the near-panic.

### REPORT BY FIREMAN.

The following official report of the occurrence was made to Chief Koltonski by Capt. Seward:

"A fire occurred in the picture booth at the Paramount theater Saturday night, February 22 at about 8.35 o'clock while Maj. Bowe's amateurs and a picture were entertaining the crowd.

"A patron, noticing a flash from an explosion of film, cried out 'Fire,' causing patrons upstairs and downstairs to start in a panic for the exits.

"Through alert operation of picture operators, ushers, stagehands and firemen on duty at the theater, what might have been a serious panic was avoided.

"Screaming and yelling prevailed until patrons were requested to go back to their seats as assurance was given them that there was no danger from fire.

"The fire was caused by hot carbon taken from the machine and laid on a metal cabinet to cool before discarding it into a waste can. A film inside of a small cabinet ignited from heat of the carbon, causing the explosion.

"There was no smoke in the theater. The operator, McKirryher, went to Fire Station 1, where he was given oxygen because of his condition from fumes."

Police and fire department officials were making every effort last night to learn the identity of the man who caused a near panic at the crowded Paramount theater about 8.35 o'clock Saturday night by calling "Fire!" when a small portion of a film burst into flame in the projection room and the resultant flash was recorded on the screen.

A capacity audience had assembled to attend Maj. Bowe's amateur show and hundreds made a mad rush to get out as the startling cry, apparently in the voice of a young man, rang through the movie house.

### Chaos Results.

Where quiet had reigned a few seconds before, there was chaos. Patrons scrambled over the tops of seats and others tried to push their way ahead of those in front of them.

Many shrieked. One woman, whose name was not learned, fainted and was carried out of the building by theater employees.

Capt. F. H. Seward of the Rutland fire department, who had been detailed by Chief A. H. Koltonski, joined the ushers at the head of one of the aisles in trying to quiet the people, assuring them that there was no fire, no danger.

Fireman George F. Regan, also detailed, hurried to the stage and by gesturing—his voice could not be heard in the uproar—aided the theater staff in restoring order.

Within a few minutes the excitement was over and many of those who had left the theater returned to their seats. No smoke had reached the auditorium.

The performance went on after a few minutes interruption.

Harland D. McKirryher, projectionist at the Paramount, was given oxygen at Fire Station 1 by members of the department to guard against any possible ill effects from fumes he inhaled while in the booth.

Fire Chief Koltonski said last night, that he had received a report from Capt. Seward stating that the automatic shutter and other safety devices at the booth worked perfectly.

### Firemen On Job.

Koltonski explained that he makes a point of assigning firemen to every amateur performance.

The chief declared that he believed

## DR. JENNEY'S HOME DAMAGED BY FIRE

Wife and Three Children  
of Dentist Flee From  
Beds; Loss \$5000.

Mrs. Edward B. Jenney, wife of a Rutland dentist, and her three children, Juliet, Elizabeth and Miles, were driven from their home, 11 Washington street in night apparel early yesterday morning when fire, which broke out on the main floor as they slept, badly damaged the interior of the building and destroyed many furnishings, including some valuable antiques.

The loss is estimated at \$5000, partly covered by insurance. Members of the family are uncertain as to how the fire started. Chief Alfred K. Koltonski expressed the belief that the cause may have been a cigarette butt left accidentally on some piece of upholstered furniture in the southwest room on the main floor where the flames did the greatest damage.

Dr. Jenney was away from home on a hunting trip when the fire broke out.

The flames ate their way through woodwork and consumed furniture on the main floor, especially at the front of the building, but there was considerable loss elsewhere from smoke and the intense heat which broke windows and blistered paint.

### Child Discovers Fire.

Juliet Jenney, 10, awakened about 2.30 o'clock and smelled smoke. The frightened child aroused her mother who took the other children from their beds and made her way to the street with them through the smoke-filled lower hall.

The two girls and the boy safely outside of the blazing building, Mrs. Jenne re-entered and telephoned to the fire department.

When the trucks rolled up to the door after a brief interval, they found Mrs. Jenne dressing the children. She had snatched up a few articles of clothing when she went in to telephone.

Firemen found that the flames had spread over a considerable area on the main floor when they reached the scene. They had not, however, attacked the stairway over which Mrs. Jenne escaped from the bedrooms with her children.

### Taximan Saw Reflection.

Francis Burke, a taxicab driver, passed the house about an hour before the alarm was sent to the fire department, he said. He noticed the reflection of flames on a window pane, but, believing it was a fire in a fireplace or something of the kind, he dismissed the matter from his mind.

While the firemen were battling flames in the house and endeavoring to salvage furniture, Mrs. Jenne and children went to the home of her father, Miles S. Sawyer of East Center street.

Firemen did most of their fighting on the ground floor, in the front part of the house. They used plaster hooks to get at the partitions. The fire did not spread beneath the floor.

The fire destroyed a book case and a table, both 150 years old and valued highly by members of the family. Another antique, a small secretary, was destroyed by the flames. A piano was damaged.

## OIL TANKS MENACED BY FLAMES IN BARN

Firemen Battle Spruce St.  
Blaze in Close Proximi-  
ty to Big Containers.

Big storage tanks belonging to the Gulf Oil company, located on Spruce street, were endangered last night as a barn owned by Nick Ciccone, 159 Spruce street, caught fire and the containers were showered with sparks. Favorable weather conditions aided firemen in checking the blaze before it had spread beyond the barn. The damage was estimated at \$250.

Fire Chief Alfred K. Koltonski said last night that had not rain been falling at the time and had not his men been summoned before, the flames gained much headway, the entire section surrounding the barn might have been endangered.

Ciccone, whose wife and son, Peter, were sick in bed when the fire was discovered about 6.30 o'clock, stated last night that he noticed that the barn was smoking when he stepped out onto his back porch after supper. He warned his wife and son immediately, he said, because the smoke and a crackling sound caused him to fear that the fire might spread to the house.

Ciccone ran to the nearest telephone and called the department.

Flames shot into the air as soon as the firemen began playing water onto the burning building but they soon subsided.

Furniture stored in the barn and a crop of shell beans were destroyed.

Scores of persons on foot and in automobiles, assembled within a few minutes to watch the fire which looked for a time as though it might reach the gasoline plant.

The origin of the fire is not known.



THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 5, 1936.

## K. OF C. CLUBHOUSE SWEEP BY FLAMES, DAMAGE \$15,000

Fire Starts in Basement  
Spreading Through Partitions to Roof.

### TRAFFIC TIED UP

Dense Smoke Handicaps Men  
in Battling Flames; Ad-  
joining Property Saved.

The three-story brick clubhouse of Rutland council, Knights of Columbus, located at 21 Merchants Row, was damaged late yesterday afternoon by fire which started in the basement and ate its way upward through partitions. The loss estimated at \$15,000, was confined to the front of the main building, the well-equipped gymnasium in an addition at the rear escaping damage.

The clubhouse, a Rutland landmark, formerly was the home of the family of the late George E. Royce. Battling with dense smoke, firemen from both Rutland companies, who answered an alarm from Box 46, Merchants Row and State street, succeeded in preventing spread of the flames to wooden buildings adjacent to the clubhouse.

Breaking out at 5.25 o'clock, when many persons were en route to their homes from business, the fire attracted hundreds of spectators, and traffic was barred from Merchants Row, between West and State streets, for more than an hour in order that vehicles might not hamper the firemen in their work.

#### Steward Discovers Fire.

The fire was discovered by James B. Howley, steward for the council, who smelled smoke and found that there was fire in the front part of the basement which already had spread to partitions. An alarm was sent in immediately.

The firemen were handicapped by dense smoke which was rolling out of the front of the building when they arrived. They worked their way to the third floor, inside the burning building and used a big aerial ladder to reach the roof to discover that the flames, spreading with great rapidity, had eaten their way through the partitions to the top of the building.

It was necessary to break windows and chop holes through hardwood floors with axes before water could be played onto the flames.

The men were able to make but little headway in the stubborn battle by working outside the clubhouse.

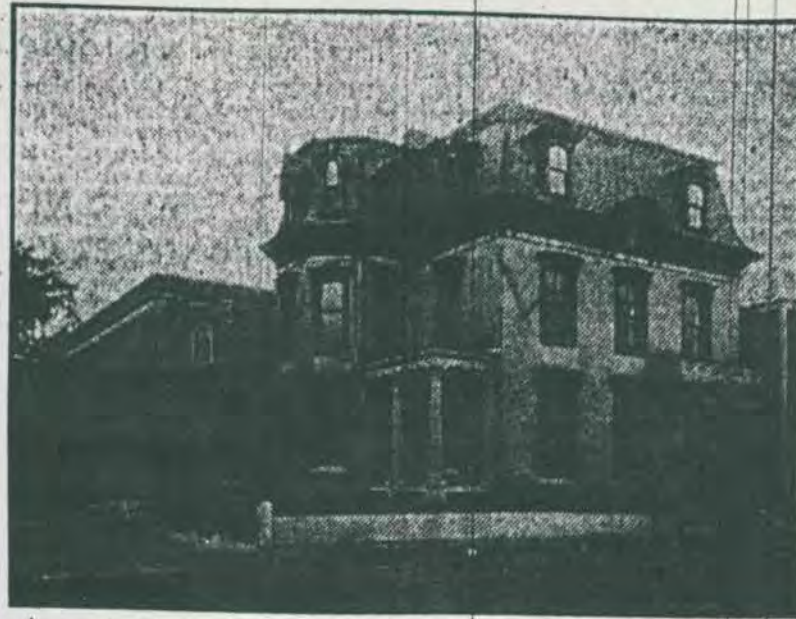
#### Water Drenches Building.

So great was the volume of water poured into the upper story that firemen and club members doing salvage work on the floors below were greatly handicapped.

To prevent the water from flooding the heating apparatus in the furnace room, the fire-fighters found it necessary to build make-shift dams of wood.

Before the fire had been conquered, the front walls of the building had been damaged and the floors of the second and third stories, at the front had been partly consumed.

## Fire Damages K. of C. Clubhouse



Flames, which originated in the basement beneath the front steps, swept to the roof at the front of the Knights of Columbus building on Merchants Row, seen above, causing \$15,000 loss yesterday afternoon.

## K. OF C. CLUBHOUSE SWEEP BY FLAMES, DAMAGE \$15,000

(Continued From Page One.)

The damage to the building and furnishings was greater from smoke and water, however, than that caused by flames.

#### Koltonski Makes Inspection.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, who made a thorough inspection of the clubhouse, with club officers, as soon as the fire was under control, set the damage at \$15,000. He expressed the belief that the fire started in a small rubbish-pile, beneath the front entrance to the building, reaching partitions before being discovered.

The clubhouse is of old-style construction, lacking fire stops. This accounted for the rapid spread of the flames, Koltonski pointed out.

Club members lent assistance to the firemen in spreading tarpaulins over pool tables and other furnishings. This lessened the damage.

The smoke, at times, rolled over the street in such dense clouds that over-curious spectators who approached too near the burning building were obliged to retreat.

Seven officers directed traffic, detouring vehicles via West and State streets.

Chief of Police William P. Fox detailed patrolmen to the scene as soon as word of the fire reached headquarters.

## K. OF C. PREPARE TO REBUILD CLUBHOUSE

Trustees Await Fire Loss  
Appraisal Before Decid-  
ing Upon Plans.

The task of rebuilding the three-story clubhouse of Rutland council, Knights of Columbus, at 21 Merchants Row, which was badly damaged by fire late Wednesday afternoon, will be started as soon as the appraisal of the loss is completed. This was stated yesterday by Attorney James P. Leamy, president of the Knights of Columbus Building association. The damage was confined principally to the front of the building, the loss having been estimated at \$15,000.

Leamy said that the building will continue to be used, except for the part where the flames raged. At a meeting of the board of trustees of the organization, held yesterday morning, the following men met with insurance representatives: Edward L. Burke, Leon S. Robillard, Dr. Francis E. Quigley and John Sullivan. It was decided to have the building examined by disinterested parties, appointed by both the trustees and the insurance agents.

The appraisal probably will be made today. The board of trustees will then meet again and decide what work is to be done and who will be engaged to do it.

Members of the organization said yesterday that some of the leather furniture was wet after the fire, but that most of it had been protected from any heavy damage by the tarpaulins that were spread. The furniture in the card room was damaged more than that in any other part of the building.

The water which partially flooded the cellar of the building was drained out yesterday.



## Grass Fire, Three Other Alarms Keep Firemen on Jump

A grass fire on Columbian avenue which threatened nearby buildings and three other alarms, two resulting from overheated chimneys, kept firemen busy yesterday.

At 11.15 o'clock the fire-fighting apparatus answered an alarm from Box 51. A defective chimney in the house at 80 Franklin street had ignited the partition between the dining room and parlor in the upstairs tenement of Alfredo Dilitoso. The flames had spread into the attic by the time the firemen arrived.

A stream from the booster line finally quenched the blaze. Damage, confined principally to the wall and attic floor, was estimated at \$200 by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski.

Steam escaping from a safety valve on an over-voiced boiler in the basement of the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edward De LaPena, Jr., 111 Grove street, was responsible for the first summons. When the firemen arrived at 10.05 they found the lower part of the house filled with steam. They shut off the water inlet and drained the reservoir. There was no damage.

Shortly after noon a telephone call summoned the trucks to Columbian avenue where a grass fire on a vacant plot of land near the eastern extremity of the street was threatening nearby buildings. Brooms were used to beat out the flames in the grass and brush.

At 11.45 o'clock last night firemen were summoned to the home of Charles H. Young, 194 Crescent street after smoke from a defective chimney awoke the family. There was no damage.

## Blazing Tar Sets Fire in Cooler of New Beer Storage

Tank of Adhesive Boils Over Into Flame in P. E. Bove Building; Damage Small.

Damage of several hundred dollars was done at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon to the beer storage plant being built on Pine street by Perry E. Bove, distributor, when a vat of tar boiled over and caught fire inside the partly completed cooler room.

It was one of the most difficult fires the Rutland department has faced for some time. The cooler room had but one opening, a door about three feet wide. The tar was used to cement cork insulation between the floor joists and when the adhesive caught fire, the cork also was burned, throwing off a dense, choking smoke.

Two new pieces of equipment were used to advantage. Smoke masks attached to fresh air pumps enabled the men to penetrate the smoke with hose lines while a 500-watt flood light, operated from a portable gasoline generator, illuminated the lightless cooler room.

Plaster board, zinc and spun glass insulating material blocked the fire's spread into other parts of the huge new structure. However, because of the saturation of the cork with the molten tar, the blaze offered stubborn resistance to the firemen's efforts. It was nearly a half hour before all flames and sparks were thoroughly extinguished.

The fire started when a large vat of the tar adhesive which was being heated over a gasoline torch flame boiled over into the blaze. Presently the flames spread to the tar in the vat and to that on the floor.

## HANGAR AT AIRPORT SWEEPED BY FLAMES

Grass Fire Spreads to Hay Stored in Steel Building on Creek Road.

More than 100 bales of hay, valued at about \$100, were destroyed yesterday afternoon in the hangar of the Creek Road airport when flames spread from a nearby grass fire and ate their way inside the steel structure so rapidly that only three bales were left unspoiled by the time the firemen mastered the blaze. The hay was owned by H. J. Calkins of Creek road. The building was damaged by the intense heat.

Mrs. Clifford Richardson, neighbor of Calkins, discovered the fire and telephoned the fire department at 4.17 o'clock. At that time a large portion of the hay was in flames. Firemen used three lines from a pump engine to battle the flames. The tight all-steel structure made fire fighting extremely difficult. Captain Ralph Beane said last night.

The hay had to be wet down, firemen said, before any attempt could be made to save portions of it. Even after some of the flaming bales were quenched still more fire threatened from bales which were packed beneath. Firemen worked for fully two hours before the fire was completely under control.

Calkins said last night that he arrived at the scene after the firemen had the flames under control. Three bales of hay were left unspoiled, he said.

The city has a claim amounting to about \$1400 upon the hangar and the property upon which it stands because of unpaid taxes. Constable John J. Carbine, acting as an agent of the city, has advertised the property for sale on March 25 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon to satisfy the tax levy.

At 4.30 o'clock, while firemen were still at the Creek road fire, a flooded oil burner at the Community hospital on West street resulted in a call for other members of the department. Damage was slight on the second call and firemen were back at the station at 4.45 o'clock.

## H. SHAMBEAU HOME DAMAGED BY FIRE

A partition fire in the tenement of Hazen D. Shambeau, 9 Pine street, was extinguished early yesterday morning by Rutland firemen. The blaze is believed to have been caused by sparks that escaped from an improper fitting of a stovepipe into a chimney outlet in the dining room.

The fire was confined to the wall between the dining room and bathroom. It was necessary to rip away a large section of the lath work to quench the blaze with a stream from a booster line.

Furniture in the Shambeau tenement and in the upstairs apartment, occupied by Wayne Crossman, was slightly damaged by smoke. The building is owned by Mrs. Georgiana Poore.

## Five Calls Keep Firemen on Jump During Week-end

Five calls, including one to 114 South street where flames in a woodshed early yesterday morning threatened the entire residence, kept the firemen busy during the week-end.

The latter blaze, in the upstairs tenement of Mrs. Margaret Ward, originated in a wooden receptacle for ashes standing in a corner of a shed at the rear of the dwelling.

Flames from the wooden box, believed to have been ignited by live coals, had spread to the adjoining walls of the shed before a member of the family, awakened by the smoke, rushed from the house and sent an alarm from box 64.

The firemen worked for nearly an hour with a stream from a "booster" line before the blaze was subdued. Damage was confined principally to sheathing in the shed. Wallpaper in the kitchen also was scorched by the heat.

The second summons yesterday, an alarm from box 74 shortly before 11 o'clock in the morning, was to the residence of Albert R. Decker, 204 Columbian avenue, where a chimney was burning out. The smouldering soot was wet down with a stream from a garden hose. There was no damage.

A telephone call from a patron of the Vermont hotel on Wales street, who mistook the reflection of a heater in an adjoining room for flames, resulted in the first needless summons of the year. The call was received at 5.10 o'clock Saturday afternoon.

Approximately two hours later the department was summoned to 82 Lincoln avenue, the home of Burton F. Smith, where oil had escaped from a flooded heater in a private garage. There was no fire.

A small fire in the floor of a downstairs room at the residence of Mrs. Mary L. Murray, 35 Williams street, caused by a short circuit in the wiring system, was extinguished by the firemen at 9.50 o'clock Saturday night. The faulty wires were removed as a precaution against a recurrence of the fire. There was little damage.

## LOSS IN CONNOLLY FIRE SET AT \$150

Damages of \$150 were estimated last night by Fire Chief A. H. Koltonski as a result of the fire which threatened the Connolly block at 71 Wales street early yesterday morning. Hot ashes in the cellar of the building caused the fire, Koltonski said. Most of the damage was due to smoke. The fire was discovered by Police Officer Quincy M. Baker.

Firemen yesterday answered two calls to put out chimney fires. The first call came at 10.34 o'clock in the morning, when a blaze was reported at 68 Woodstock avenue. The second summons arrives from 86 Forest street at 7.45 o'clock last night.



### REYNOLDS HOME DAMAGED BY FIRE

A rear room in the tourist home of Mrs. Elizabeth G. Reynolds of 48 North Main street was badly scorched at 10 o'clock last night when an oil burner there flared up, spreading a blaze to the beaver-board walls of the room and threatening the entire house, according to Rutland firemen.

Slight damage resulted to the belongings of Mary Bush, a maid employed in the Reynolds residence. The blaze was extinguished with a stream from a booster-line, attached to one of the two trucks which answered the call turned in by Mrs. Reynolds.

### FIREMEN SQUELCH 3 SUNDAY BLAZES

Only a small amount of damage resulted from three fires which Rutland firemen were called upon to extinguish yesterday. The alarms resulted from a burning mattress, hot ashes in a wooden container, and a clogged flue.

The mattress fire, at the home of John Calvano at 42 Meadow street, was the source of a box alarm yesterday afternoon. The firemen threw the burning bedding out a window and squelched the flames with a pony extinguisher. There was no damage to the house, except from smoke.

The hot ashes were in a wooden box on the rear porch of a residence at 118 Forest street. No damage resulted. The chimney fire was at 130 State street.

### Fire Department Gets Three Calls During Week-end

**Boiling Tar, Stopped Chimneys  
and Blazing Auto Radiator  
Alcohol Are Causes.**

The firemen answered three calls over the week-end. Smoke, issuing from a pot of boiling tar and from a clogged chimney, was responsible for two of them, while the other resulted from the ignition of alcohol beneath the hood of an automobile.

The anti-freeze solution which had boiled out of a radiator of an automobile and flared up when it came in contact with the engine block was the origin of the first summons at 7.30 o'clock Saturday morning to the corner of Strongs avenue and Wales street. The inflammable liquid burned itself out, doing no damage, according to firemen, who said that the car is owned by Charles J. Dansreau of Franklin street.

The second trip was to 79 North street at 2.15 o'clock Saturday afternoon. The firefighters were called by neighbors of Irving H. Baker, who became alarmed when they noticed a cloud of black smoke rolling out of an open door in a shed at the rear of the residence. Investigation disclosed that tar, to be used in repairing the roof of the structure, was the source of the dense smoke. It was being heated in a container atop a small stove.

A maladjusted damper in a chimney at the home of Robert C. Boynton on Grove street, which caused smoke to pour into the house through the fireplace opening, resulted in a call being made to the fire

### New Year Brings Rush of Business For City Firemen

**Rutland Department Answers  
Seven Calls in 13 Hours;  
Damage Is Slight.**

Members of the Rutland fire department ushered in the new year with a spurt of activity, answering four telephone and three box alarms within 13 hours. The total damage caused by the fires was small.

Of the seven calls, five were for chimney blazes. The remaining two were for an overheated fireplace at the home of Freeman Plue at the corner of Oak and Holly streets, and a fire resulting from a short circuit in the wiring of an automobile owned by Alderman Raymond R. Beane.

The chimney fires were at 115 Maple street, 128 Strongs avenue, 91 Franklin street, 144 State street, and 6 Kissane place.

While one group of firemen was extinguishing a chimney blaze on Franklin street at 2.08 o'clock Saturday afternoon another group was called to put out a similar fire at 144 State street.

JANUARY 11, 1938.

### BLAZE THREATENS MEMORIAL ARMORY

**Guardsmen Discover Fire  
in Janitor's Locker in  
Boiler-Room.**

A serious fire threatened for a short time the Memorial armory, West street, last night when a janitor's locker in the boiler room, which is adjacent to the armory coal bin, caught fire just after 40 men of Headquarters company, 172d Infantry, had completed drill for the night.

Three privates, Pascal Ross, William Shore and John Vitagliano smelled smoke as they passed through the lobby while leaving the building. They notified the fire department immediately and raced down to the basement where they attempted with pail of water to stem the blaze, which had spread to the coal bin partition.

Smoke filled the halls of the building and poured out of the open doorway on West street, attracting the attention of passersby and neighboring residents. Rutland firemen under the direction of Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and Capt. Frank H. Seward, extinguished the blaze with streams from a booster-tank.

Maj. Charles E. Novak, building custodian, estimated damage at about \$50 and added that a year's supply of coal was stored in the bin just back of the partition, which was badly burned. A pair of overalls and an old coat hanging in the locker were destroyed.

### FIRE CAUSES \$2500 LOSS AT SODA SPA

**Flames, Starting in Kitchen,  
Sweep Through  
Rear of Building.**

Valuable property in the heart of the business district was threatened by fire early yesterday morning when flames broke in the kitchen of the Rutland Soda Spa, a restaurant, located on the ground floor of the Fenn block at 15 Center street.

Firemen fought the flames for more than an hour with three streams of water, confining it largely to the partitions in the rear of the restaurant and preventing serious damage to adjoining buildings.

The total loss was estimated by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski at \$2500. Both the building and contents were insured.

Chief Koltonski and Capt. Francis H. Seward conducted an investigation to learn the cause of the fire and the former stated last night that he was convinced it was due to an overheated stovepipe, attached to the kitchen range, which was in close proximity to a wooden partition.

The fire was discovered about 6.20 o'clock by John H. Mead of Strongs avenue, a window cleaner, who went to the restaurant to carry out his duties. An alarm was immediately sent out for the entire fire-fighting force and all available apparatus.

A lively blaze was shooting through the partitions in the rear of the restaurant by the time that the department arrived. It is the belief of the firemen that the fire had been smoldering for some time before it finally burst into flames and was discovered.

The restaurant force had not yet reported for duty, but the kitchen had been occupied until a late hour the previous night.

**Confined To Partitions.**

The fire was a difficult one with which to cope because of its location within the partitions. The men were obliged to tear away panels of the steel ceiling in the kitchen and to cut into partitions on the floors above to get water to the seat of the fire.

Thousands of gallons of water were poured into the burning structure before the "out" signal was blown about 7.50 o'clock.

The flames raced through the partitions to the roof of the three-story brick building but did not break through it. Smoke poured into the vacant rooms directly over the Soda Spa, formerly occupied by the Oriental restaurant, and into an unoccupied apartment on the third floor of the building.

Considerable smoke also found its way into the tailor shop of Edward M. Farrell on the second floor of the T. H. Lalor block, adjoining the Fenn building on the east. The Wolk Style shop, located on the ground floor of the Lalor block, was not damaged.

A fire wall prevented flames and smoke from finding their way into the Tuttle building, adjoining the scene of the fire on the west.

The Soda Spa was closed yesterday pending the arrival of insurance adjusters.

The Soda Spa entered bankruptcy in December, 1935. Early in 1936, the business was reorganized and it has since been operated under the management of Constantine G. Boretos of Royce street, principal owner.



## JOHN FUCCI HOME DAMAGED BY FIRE

Over-Heated Pipe Ignites  
Wooden Chute During  
Absence of Family.

Flames shot through a cold air register in the living-room of the John Fucci residence at 205 Mussey street at the supper hour last night and partly destroyed the room and furniture in it before firemen got the blaze under control. An over-heated furnace-pipe which ignited the wood frame cold air circulator immediately above it was believed to have caused the blaze, according to Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski.

Neither Fucci nor his wife and four-year-old daughter were home when the blaze was discovered by Adolphus Barrett of 212 Mussey street, whose home faces the Fucci residence. Barrett immediately phoned the fire department and Joseph Belden, 18, who was with Barrett at the time turned in a general alarm.

Mrs. Fucci stated that she and her daughter were at the home of her mother, Mrs. Victor Forcier at 214 Mussey street and that her husband, an employe of the Howe Scale works was bowling at Dunn's Alleys on Wales street. She said she did not know her home was afire until summoned by neighbors.

Firemen from both stations attacked the blaze from cellar and living-room with lines from booster tanks, using axes to hack their way into the blazing house. The fire was extinguished within 20 minutes and firemen devoted their times to pulling down the charred partitions around the register and blackened portions of the ceiling reached by the towering flames.

No accurate estimate of the damage could be made last night. Mrs. Fucci stated that the five-room house was insured. Considerable smoke damage resulted apart from the destruction of the living-room floor, furniture and a radio standing near the register.

## Car Fire in Business Area Ties Up Traffic

All of Rutland's fire-fighting apparatus was called out at 2:19 o'clock Saturday afternoon, during the height of the shopping rush, to extinguish a fire in an automobile at the corner of West and Edson streets.

The blaze, which according to Deputy Fire Chief Ralph Bean was caused when inflammable anti-freeze solution dropped from a broken radiator hose onto the hot motor, was quickly extinguished, although traffic in the vicinity was tied up for several minutes by the incident. The car was reported to be a sedan owned by the Elmore Motors company, of Brandon.

Other week-end calls included a fire in a garage owned by District Highway Commissioner Earl Welch, at 44 Woodstock avenue, which was reported at 12:15 p. m. yesterday afternoon. A basket of kindling near a stove in the building became ignited. There was no damage. The department was called to 24 Stratton Road at 11:30 a. m. Saturday, to extinguish a fire in a pile of material left on top of the furnace at the residence of A. H. Sanford. The flames were put out with pails of water. A chimney fire at 50 Morse place, at 8:40 p. m. Saturday, was extinguished with no damage. A thermostat alarm at the Burditt block on Evelyn street was answered at 7:20 a. m. yesterday. The breaking of a frozen line in the sprinkler system caused the alarm.

MARCH 19, 1938

## Loss \$3000 In Store Fire

Flames Sweep Storeroom of McDevitt Brothers Grocery on  
Baxter Street.

Fire of undetermined origin, which had its inception in a small storeroom at the rear of the one-story structure, early yesterday morning did damage estimated at between \$3000 and \$4000 to the stock, fixtures and interior of the McDevitt Brothers grocery store at 131 Baxter street.

The loss, caused principally by heat and smoke, is partially covered by insurance, according to Matthew E. McDevitt, one of the proprietors.

A force of 14 men from the downtown station, augmented by six call firemen, worked for an hour and a half with two booster pumps and a stream from a line of inch and a half hose before subduing the blaze.

Engines one and three, in response to a telephone call from Mrs. John E. Bostrom, jr., of Preville avenue, whose attention was attracted by flames darting from windows at the rear of the frame building, arrived on the scene at 5:05 o'clock. An alarm from Box 117 was turned in a few minutes later.

The men who gained entrance to the smoke-choked store by forcing both front and rear doors, found the storeroom a mass of flames. They gradually brought the fire under control so that it did not escape through an open door into the main part of the establishment.

### Terrific Heat.

Heat from the blaze, which was confined to the gutted stock room, completely ruined the groceries and provisions in the store proper. It was so intense that it blistered the paint on the walls and ceiling of the large room, withered the labels on the entire stock of canned goods, melted electric light bulbs in the fixtures and cracked the plate glass show windows.

The basement of the store, in which were housed two delivery trucks, a large supply of sacked potatoes and a 50-gallon tank of kerosene, was untouched by either the fire or water. Neither the furnace nor an electric refrigeration pump, also located in the basement, was damaged.

Matthew McDevitt, who lives only two houses north of the store, was oblivious of the fire until notified by a telephone operator who was seeking to trace the cause of a phone signal being received from an instrument in the establishment which firemen believe was damaged by the intense heat.

Believing it was a robbery, she was making ready to call police headquarters when the message from Mrs. Bostrom was put through to the fire station.

## Gay Street Home of Charles Furness Is Damaged by Flames

Fire in Stove Believed to Be  
Source of Blaze Which Began  
During Family's Absence.

Fire believed caused by an over-heated kitchen range early Saturday night gutted the one and a half story frame dwelling house of Charles Furness on Gay street and destroyed most of its furnishings. An estimate of the loss, part of which is covered by insurance, could not be ascertained last night.

The flames were licking through the rooms on the ground floor of the wooden building and had found their way up through the ceiling to the second floor when two engines from the central station arrived on the scene about 8 o'clock in response to a telephone summons. A stream from a single line of hose quenched the blaze.

The fire was discovered by a member of the Furness family, who was visiting at the home of a nearby neighbor. Observing that the flames were beyond control, he ran to the office of the Fire Clay company and phoned the fire department. Furness told Chief Alfred H. Koltonski that he had kindled a fire in the kitchen stove a short while before he and his family left the house.

A chimney fire at the home of Frank LaJoie, 267 West street, was extinguished about 10 o'clock yesterday morning by the firemen. Damage was slight.

## Fruit Company Trucks Damaged By Flames at Spruce St. Warehouse

Tool Shed on Granger Street  
Burns to Ground in Another  
Week-end Blaze.

Fire of undetermined origin, which had its inception in a pile of straw in the rear of a large motor truck owned by the K. & A. Fruit company, Saturday afternoon burned the wooden framework rack of the vehicle before it was extinguished by the firemen with streams from booster lines. The blaze also blistered the paint on another truck parked nearby and scorched the walls of the warehouse on Spruce street, in which both vehicles were housed. Damage was not extensive, Deputy Chief Ralph R. Bean said.

The firemen also answered an alarm from Box 65 about 12:30 o'clock yesterday morning, when a small tool shed at the rear of the home of Ralph Clementi, 182 Granger street, was burned to the ground. The men played a stream from a booster line on the flaming structure but the fire was so far advanced that the building could not be saved.

Slight damage resulted from another fire which occurred about 9:20 o'clock Saturday morning at the residence of Samuel F. Bradford at 79 North street. Deputy Chief Bean said the blaze originated in a bunch of newspapers in a coal hod, into which a member of the household tossed a lighted match. The flames scorched a wall in the kitchen.



JANUARY 1, 1938.

## RUTLAND FIRE LOSS LOWEST IN 32 YEARS

Damage in 1937 Amounts  
to \$6000 on 325 Alarms,  
or 34 Cents Per Capita.

Rutland's fire loss for 1937 was only 34 cents per capita, estimating the city's population at 17,500, it was learned last night from Chief Alfred H. Koltonski of the fire department.

Although state-wide figures for the year just closed are not yet available, Koltonski pointed to the fact that the per capita loss in Vermont for 1936 was \$3.96 and for the United States as a whole, \$2.05.

Koltonski also called attention to the fact that the 1937 loss of about \$6000, with a total of 325 alarms, was the smallest in the city since 1905, when the department was called out to cope with only 47 fires.

The largest loss during 1937 was incurred in the fire which damaged the Bizzaro store on Granger street in January. Insurance paid as result of this blaze amounted to \$2285, on building and stock.

There have been 13 years since 1905 in which the total fire loss in Rutland was under \$25,000.

The heaviest fire damage in any year in recent times was experienced during 1906 when the loss, reckoned on insurance paid, was \$260,552. Most of this resulted from the fire at the Mead building corner, Center street and Merchants Row.

There also was a loss of \$193,548 in 1924 during which the Lincoln Iron works, Dana school and Methodist church fires occurred.

7/29/38

## Fire of Unknown Origin Causes Damage of \$200 To Geno Avenue Garage

Children Discover Flames in  
Unoccupied Two-Car Build-  
ing; Put Out Quickly.

An unoccupied two-car garage owned by Frederick C. Pockette of 12 Geno avenue was almost completely destroyed by fire shortly before noon yesterday. Cause of the blaze, which did damage estimated by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski at approximately \$200, was undetermined.

Every piece of fire-fighting apparatus from the downtown station was called to the blaze. Engines 1 and 3 answering a telephone call received at 11:10 and the other two trucks responding to an alarm from Box 75 four minutes later.

The interior of the frame structure and a pile of used lumber were badly charred by the flames. The fire was extinguished by streams from a single line of hose and a "booster" tank.

A child of the Pockettes, playing in the front yard, discovered the fire in the garage. He ran into the house and notified his mother. After a glance at the flames shooting out the door and windows in the building, Mrs. Pockette hurriedly phoned the department.

FEBRUARY 25, 1938.

## Fire Causes \$200 Loss

Conway Home Threatened as  
Flames Sweep Bedroom on  
Upper Floor.

Fire of undetermined origin yesterday afternoon gutted an upstairs bedroom in the residence of William E. Conway of 6 Cleveland avenue. Damage estimated by Conway at almost \$200 resulted from the blaze. Ruined articles included furniture, pictures, bedding and personal possessions of his son, John Conway and his wife.

Only the presence of mind of the elder Conway, who discovered the blaze and promptly slammed the door of the blazing room shut, prevented the fire from spreading through the two-story house, Capt. Frank Seward stated last night.

The condition of the room and statements made by fire department officials indicated the blaze might have started in a bureau drawer in the room. Apparently it had gathered some headway in the room and spread to the walls before it was discovered by Conway who smelled the smoke as it seeped down the stairway of the house.

With Conway at the time, were his wife, his son, John, and his wife, and a younger son, Charles, 12, who turned in an alarm at the corner of State street and Cleveland avenue. The boy directed firemen to the scene of the blaze.

A daughter, Vivian Conway, stated she saw smoke and flames in the upper window of the house, as she was returning home from a visit with a neighbor. By that time, however, the alarm had been turned in.

The blaze was quickly extinguished by firemen with streams from two hose lines, too late, however, to prevent the destruction of everything in the room but a mattress on the bed. Walls and ceiling were badly charred and flames spread to the ceiling of an ante-room adjacent to the bedroom.

Conway stated that he carried no insurance, either for the furniture in the room or the personal possessions lost by his son and wife.

JULY 12, 1938

## Firemen Called Twice In Same Day to Attic Fires on Same Street

Chief Blaze, Thought Set by  
Child, Endangers Home of  
Three Families.

The attic of a three-family house at 14 Church street late yesterday afternoon was partly destroyed when, fire officials believe, rubbish in the room was set ablaze by a child playing there. Damage was estimated at \$50. Firemen answered another attic fire call on the same street earlier in the day.

According to Mrs. Gertrude Jasmin, an occupant of the 18-room house, her five-year-old girl, Jean, was playing in the attic when flame spurted from a pile of old rags and the girl ran downstairs to the street.

The fire was seen also by Harold Colley, an occupant of the house, who turned in a general alarm at the corner of Church and Williams street.

Firemen fought the blaze from the front and side of the house. A booster line was brought to the rear of the attic and the blaze quenched within 10 minutes. Another party of firemen broke into the front window of the attic. The burning rubbish was thrown onto the back lawn.

Members of the Colley, Jasmin and LaPoint families were in the house at the time, as well as Lewis R. Staves, a boarder.

A similar attic blaze earlier in the day was extinguished at 113 Church street, the home of William J. Moreau, a plumber. Moreau was stripping paint from the side of the house with a blow torch. The paint caught fire just under the eaves and quickly spread into the attic inside the house. The blaze was quenched with several pails of water and a stream from a booster line. Little damage resulted.



## 5 ESCAPE DEATH AS FLAMES RAZE N. CLARENDON HOME

Unidentified Boston Men  
Arouse Sleeping Occu-  
pants of Burning House.

### FURNITURE LOST

House, Owned by Mrs. Col-  
ton, Destroyed With  
Loss of \$5000.

Five persons were saved from what would have been a horrible death shortly before midnight last night by the heroic action and quick thinking of four unidentified youths, said by onlookers to come from Boston, who saw flames licking through the roof of the 10-room house owned by Mrs. Marla Colton of North Clarendon.

In the house, which was quickly razed to the ground before Rutland firemen could arrive, were Mrs. Colton, Mr. and Mrs. William Mershon and their infant daughter, Mary Rose, and Norma Walker, 10-year-old daughter of Fred Walker, an employe of the Howe Scale works of Rutland.

The Boston men, who discovered the fire as they were driving by, roused Mrs. Colton who lay ill and fully-dressed in the front room of the house and then raced to the sun-parlor at the rear of the Colton home and waked Mershon, his wife and daughter and the Walker girl. The entire household fled through a mass of smoke and flames to safety.

The rescuers left before their names could be learned.

The house was burned to the ground and with it were destroyed all of the occupants' belongings. Mrs. Leon Ellison, a niece of Mrs. Colton, said that valuable antiques, including furniture, silver and rugs, belonging to Mrs. Colton were destroyed. A car belonging to Walker was driven out of the two-car garage before the flames got to it.

Scantly-dressed and not fully aware of the narrow escape they had made, Mrs. Colton, Mr. and Mrs. Mershon their baby and the Walker girl were taken across the road to the Timothy Cheedal residence, where Mr. and Mrs. Mershon and the Walker girl will stay until they find quarters. Mrs. Colton who is 67

years old said the house was fully insured. She later went to the residence of her niece, Mrs. Ellison.

Walker, who was not at home when the fire started, said that all of his possessions with the exception of the car were destroyed.

#### Protect Fish Home.

Firemen devoted their time to preventing flying sparks from igniting the Jay Fish residence which is just north of the Colton home, a warehouse owned by Charles Spafford and the 35-seat, one-room village schoolhouse situated just back of the Colton home across an eight-foot brook.

Several trees near the roadway caught fire as the blaze progressed, but the fires were rapidly extinguished with lines from a booster-tank. The intense heat of the fire was felt by the many spectators who lined the roadway across from the burning house and snow and ice around the porch were melted as parts of the building fell in.

DECEMBER 26, 1938.

## Fire Levels Canty's Inn

Wayside Tearoom on Mendon  
Road Destroyed in Early-  
Morning Blaze; Family Flees.

(Special to The Herald.)

MENDON, Dec. 25.—Canty's Wayside inn, two miles below the Long Trail lodge on the Mendon road to the mountain top, burned to the ground before daylight this morning. Residents estimated loss at above \$3000. The owner, William Canty, with his family, is wintering in Florida.

Caretaker Delbert Lapoint and family, Mrs. Lapoint and their five children, were awakened by the fire just after 4 o'clock in time to telephone the Rutland firemen for help before they had to flee.

There was no available water supply to combat the blaze, and firemen saved the booster tank to protect the cabins used in conjunction with the Wayside Inn in summertime, located across the highway.

Because the fire affected telephone and electric wires attached to the inn, a wooden structure one and one-half stories in height, the village of Mendon was without electric lights until midmorning, and several telephone lines were out of order.

After the Lapoints had fled the burning building, a man delivering New York Sunday papers came along on his route over the mountain, believed the residents to be still in the house and summoned Benjamin Harrison, a neighbor, to the scene to offer aid.

Lapoint told firemen he believed the fire caught into the partition around a stovepipe. The Lapoints had returned home at midnight for the night and had built a hot fire at that time. They suffered the loss of household goods.

The place was one of the earlier lunch resorts on the mountain road and commanded a picturesque view of the Mendon valley. It was built about 18 years ago and had become a busy stopping place during the summer months.

Damage, estimated by Mrs. Colton at \$5000 resulted with the additional loss of her furniture, antiques and personal belongings. Mershon, a piano-tuner, who returned recently from the South, said all of his family's possessions were destroyed.

Mrs. Colton said the fire might have been caused by an overheated chimney in the upper floor of the house. She said she attempted to go upstairs as she was being led out of the house by the Boston men, claiming she saw flickering lights above the stairs. The men would not permit her to do anything but take a small black box containing her bank-books, insurance policies and deeds with her.

Rutland firemen, who made a fast run to the fire, stood by after midnight watching the charred remains.

FRIDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 9, 1938.

## Huge Cattle Barn Destroyed By Fire

Damage, Running Into Thousands of Dollars, Caused as  
Blaze Destroys One Big Building and Four Adjoining  
Ones on Aldace Newton's Creek Road Farm.

A monster barn and four adjoining buildings owned by Aldace Newton of Creek road, Clarendon, prominent cattle dealer, were destroyed late yesterday afternoon by fire said to have originated from a short circuit in the wiring system. Oscar Pratt, foreman of the farm, while unable to make a definite estimate said the loss would be very heavy, running into many thousands of dollars.

Mr. and Mrs. Newton were in Burlington all day yesterday and did not receive word of the fire until early last night when they were reached by phone in the Queen City.

Pratt stated that 165 tons of new hay besides valuable farming and milking machinery were lost in the flames which were discovered about 4:45 o'clock. No livestock was in the building at the time.

Summoned by Mrs. Pratt, 40 volunteer members of the Wallingford fire department confined the flames to the burning buildings by pouring water from 2400 feet of hose on the rear of the Newton home which was badly scorched.

The flames, which leaped high into the air, attracted nearly 300 persons from a radius of 15 miles. According to Pratt the damage was partially covered by insurance.

Assistance was given to the Wallingford fire fighters by members of the Rutland department who arrived at the scene about 6:15 o'clock last night. The 2400-foot hose line brought water from the creek through the agency of pumps.

The fire was discovered by young Malcolm and Robert Pratt, sons of Oscar Pratt, while they were on their way to the pasture to bring in 200 head of cattle.

The boys notified their mother who

in turned sounded the alarm. Pratt was in a cornfield a half mile distant from the farm. The buildings had been burning for nearly 10 minutes before he noticed the flames shooting into the sky.

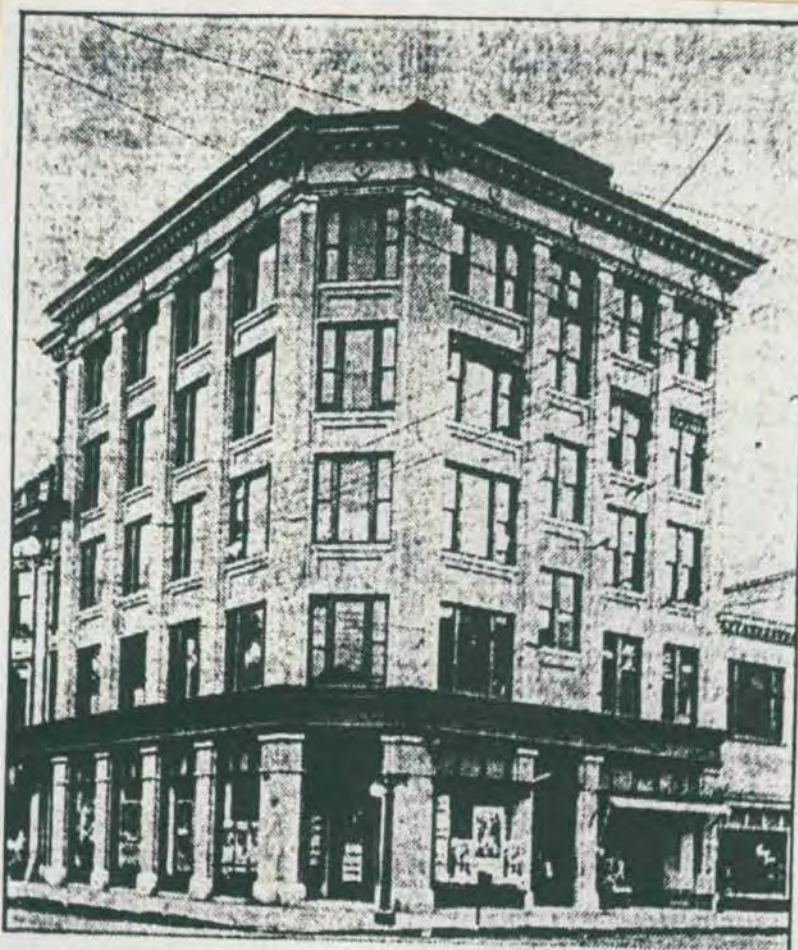
The buildings were a mass of flames when the Wallingford volunteers, headed by Chief James Kennedy, arrived. Realizing that the barn was beyond saving, the men concentrated their efforts on saving the house which was less than 50 feet from the blazing structures. Kennedy summoned Rutland firemen.

The barn was used to stable the 200 head of cattle. The adjoining buildings were used for storing hay and farm machinery.

Pratt stated that but for the quick work on the part of the Wallingford and Rutland fire fighters, the three-story wooden house would also have burned.

While waiting for the firemen, Pratt worked with his two boys in saving some of the heavier farming machinery. The fire burned until late last night.





Fire, which broke out in the basement of the Carbine Clothing company last night, threatened the Gryphon building, shown above, and the adjoining Outlet Trading Post on West street.

## Damage Heavy As Fire Starts At Carbine Clothing Store

(Continued From Page One.)

stairs. A third line of hose was extended into the building from a basement entrance at the rear of the Outlet store off Edson street.

### Mumford Discovers Fire.

The fire was discovered shortly after 8 o'clock last night by a clerk working in the basement. The clerk, Joseph T. K. Mumford of 129 Holly street, stated he saw flames licking over boxes behind him in the storeroom.

Mumford sustained burns about the face and hands in attempting to beat out the flames. However, when he saw that he would not be successful, he summoned the fire department.

C. A. Anderson, another employee of the store, who was summoned after the fire was discovered, entered the smoke-filled establishment and removed important records of the concern while firemen flacked away burning planks and boxes in the basement.

Spotlights were set up outside the door of the store and firemen poked their way cautiously through the darkness and the smoke as they worked their way into the basement. The blaze was extinguished in less than 10 minutes. The entire fire department complement of both stations and all call men answered the call.

Members of both stations spent the remainder of the time, searching through the basement and the basements of stores adjoining Carbine's to discover whether sparks had spread from the blaze through the basement, fed by the draft from the stairway.

William Ginsburg, owner of the Outlet store, last night stated that the establishment would be closed to make an estimate of smoke damage to the stock.

Charles Kirjos, manager of the Cinderella Sweet shop, was forced to close his establishment last night, and he stated that he would not reopen the place of business today.

# Damage Heavy In Fire At Carbine Clothing Store

Blaze, Originating in Basement Storeroom, Spreads Smoke Through 3 Other Establishments.

J. T. Mumford Burned

Gryphon Building Threatened; Outlet and Cinderella Shop Suffer Loss; Firemen Make Quick Stop.

## Flames Gut Gibbs Home

Curtis Avenue House Destroyed by Fire Started by Overheated Furnace.

A rapidly-spreading blaze, which developed from an overheated furnace in the basement, at 10 o'clock last night gutted the insides of a one-and-one-half-story residence at 107 Curtis avenue and left only the blackened walls of the building standing.

The owner, C. Malcolm Gibbs, a garage mechanic, was at work on Cleveland avenue when the blaze was reported by Henry Morse of 106 Curtis avenue, who turned in a box alarm at the corner of Curtis avenue and Horton street to bring two engines from Station 1.

Gibbs' wife and seven-year-old daughter, Beverly, are in Bridgeport, Conn., visiting relatives. It was learned. The building was also occupied by Ross Martin, an employee of Prouse's restaurant, and his mother, Mrs. R. H. Martin. All were away when the fire was discovered.

Morse ran from his house when a neighbor's child saw licking tongues of flames ascending from the basement of the building. Two engines made a quick run to the Curtis avenue building. The flames were spreading to the first floor of the house through hot air registers in the floor.

Working in near-zero temperatures, the firemen quickly ran a booster line through the front door of the house and deployed to the rear of the building to hack their way into the basement of the structure.

The blaze on the first floor was brought quickly under control as firemen's axes broke away parts of the burning wall at the rear of the building. A group then clambered to the upper-floor of the building in an attempt to stop the flames from spreading through the three rooms of the upper floor.

All of the possessions of the five occupants of the building were destroyed: Blazing furnitures, drapes

and clothing were thrown through the windows by the firemen in their efforts to prevent complete destruction.

Several times the firemen plunged into the smoke and flame-filled building dragging a booster line with them and emerged later with their faces singed and eyes streaming.

Several lamps powered by a portable generator were set up in front of the house to aid the men in their work. The blaze was brought under control approximately 30 minutes after the alarm was turned in. Regular members of the department, aided by several callmen fought the blaze.

Martin, the only occupant of the house who arrived while the blaze was in progress, said last night that he was not certain whether the house or contents were insured.

Fire of undetermined origin last night caused heavy damage when it gutted a basement storeroom in the Carbine Clothing company store at the corner of West street and Merchants Row, and for a while threatened the Gryphon building on one of Vermont's busiest intersections.

Flames were confined entirely to the storeroom, which is located directly beneath the main floor of the establishment at the front of the building. Smoke, however, spread not only throughout the clothing store, but into adjoining stores on both sides of the building.

Other stores which were affected by the heavy clouds of acrid smoke which poured out of the clothing store, were the Cinderella Sweet Shop on Merchants Row, Brown's store on Merchants Row and the Outlet Trading Post on West street. The Outlet establishment extends to the walls of the Grand theater.

William C. Carbine, one of the owners of the clothing business, last night stated that no exact estimate of the damage could be made at the time, but he added that it probably would be heavy because of the smoke. He said the store was fully insured.

A considerable portion of the stock of shirts and underwear stored in the basement storeroom were destroyed by the flames. Wooden partitions and a desk in the room were badly charred. Flakes of paint hung from the ceiling which was badly damaged by the intense heat.

The fire attracted crowds from all parts of the city. Spectators filled the sidewalks and streets well down West street and Merchants Row. Both traffic arteries were completely clogged, as the crowd filled the narrow area to watch the fire. Police were forced to divert scores of autos from the business section.

A fireline was established by policemen and volunteers from the crowd, but the thin rope often threatened to break as the excited crowd pushed forward through the smoke which filled the square.

Several times firemen entered the store to fight their way down the narrow, winding basement stairs, only to emerge gasping and with eyes streaming, as the choking smoke drove them out into the fresh air.

A hose-line was extended into the basement from a sidewalk-level window on West street, while still another hose was directed onto the blaze from the foot of the narrow



# Kingsley School Swept By Flames From Hot Furnace



Herald Photo.

Fire, believed to have started from an overheated furnace, damaged the 50-year-old Kingsley school on Pine street, above, yesterday afternoon to the extent of \$5000. Pupils will be transferred to Lincoln school for the next three months.

## Fire Sweeps Schoolhouse

(Continued from Page One.)

made for the Kingsley school pupils to attend classes at Lincoln school on Lincoln avenue beginning Monday morning.

He explained that the number of vacant classrooms available in the Lincoln school building was sufficient for the Pine street school group. Authorization for the pupils to attend Lincoln school was given by the board of school commissioners.

Because of the long distance to Lincoln school for some, the Kingsley school pupils living south of Maple street will be provided with transportation twice a day.

A school bus will leave the corner of State and Pine streets at 8:40 o'clock in the morning for the first trip. Two trips will be made. The children will also be provided transportation after classes in the afternoon.

No bus service will be given during the noon hour, the superintendent said, but a place will be provided at Lincoln school for children going from long distances, to eat their lunches.

Pupils residing north of Maple street will not be provided with transportation.

Katherine M. Walsh is principal of Kingsley school. Other members of the teaching staff are Margaret Fullhan, Marjorie Sears Thompson and Gladys H. Nourse. Classes for pupils in grades 1 to 4 are conducted in the building.

The last fire in a Rutland public school building occurred in February, 1924, when Dana school was destroyed. Damage to this building was more than \$30,000.

**Lunch-Hour Fire Breaks Out  
Near Heating Plant in  
Basement as 135 Pupils  
Are Out for Lunch.**

**Damage Set at \$5000**

**Children to Be Transferred  
to Lincoln Building for  
Next Three Months; Bus  
to Be Furnished.**

With flames spreading rapidly through the partitions, 27 firemen, hindered by dense smoke, battled for more than an hour early yesterday afternoon before putting under control a fire which threatened to destroy the 50-year-old Kingsley elementary school building on Pine street as pupils were returning to classes from their noon recess.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltowski last night estimated the damage to the building at \$5000. About 135 boys and girls attend classes in the first four grades there.

The blaze was discovered at 1:15 o'clock by Janitor Jesse Stone of State street, 15 minutes before classes were scheduled to meet.

No children were in the building at the time, though approximately 30 boys and girls were on the playground when the alarm was sounded.

Twenty-seven firemen, including seven call men, battled the flames for nearly an hour before putting them under control. The "all out" alarm was sounded at 3:30 o'clock.

Most of the damage to the school was confined to the partitions. Because of the dense smoke, the fire fighters, armed with three lines of hose, experienced difficulty in locating the source of the fire which spread rapidly from the basement through the partitions to the upper two stories. The building was erected before fire stops in the walls were in vogue.

The firemen were forced to chop holes in the walls to pour water on the flames. Most of the fire damage was confined to the first floor.

Repairs on the brick building, which was constructed in 1888, will be started early next week and it is expected that classes will be resumed there within three months, Superintendent of Schools W. W. Fairchild said.

The building was insured up to 80 per cent of its sound value. Little damage resulted to seats, desks and other school furniture.

Fairchild said last night that the present hot air heating system in the building was installed three years ago.

Stone was formerly janitor at Madison street school which was closed to public school purposes several months ago as an economy measure in view of the decreasing attendance in the elementary schools in the city.

**Pupils to Go to Lincoln**

Superintendent Fairchild said last night that arrangements have been

(Continued On Page 3 With Picture).



## 3 Injured As Spring Works Is Blown Up

Gas Tank of Auto Being Welded by Anthony Altobell, Shop Owner, Explodes.

G. T. Dumas Is Hero

Employee Saves Firemen's Lives by Releasing Acetylene Gas; V. Altobell Also Burned.

A series of terrific explosions shortly after 11 o'clock yesterday morning rocked Rutland and destroyed Young's Welding works on West street. The north side of the building was blown out. Every piece of equipment in the shop was destroyed. Anthony Altobell, proprietor of the works estimated the loss at \$10,000. Three persons were badly burned.

So great was the force of the explosions that electrical service in parts of the city was interrupted for a short time. The noise of the explosion were heard and its impact were felt in a wide area surrounding the shop.

Altobell, a man of about 40, and father of four children, escaped death or serious maiming by minutes only. He had been working on a turnbuckle underneath a new sedan in the front of the shop, when a spark from his electric welder set fire to gasoline fumes from the tank of the car.

The leaping flames set fire to Altobell's clothing. In agony he dropped his welder and rolled out from underneath the car. His clothing and hair were aflame and he started to run toward the front of the building.

His brother, Victor, who was working in the shop at the time saw him and leaped to his side. He threw his arms around the frantic man in an attempt to keep him from getting outside the building, and in smothering the fire with his body, set fire to his own clothing.

Meanwhile George T. Dumas, of 55 Meadow street, an employee of the shop, and Louis Altobell, a son of the proprietor, seized extinguishers from the walls and played them over the bodies and charred clothing of the men and then summoned the fire trucks.

### Gas Tanks Explode.

Less than five minutes after Altobell rolled out from under the car, which meanwhile had caught fire, the gasoline tank exploded. Flaming gasoline shot out from under the car and set the grease and dirt-laden floor afire. The flames shot up to the roof and set that ablaze.

The men, by this time had emerged from the building. Ten minutes after the men left, two acetylene gas tanks exploded. The north wall of the building was blown out and parts of the wall were thrown over the railroad embankment at the north side of the building, many yards away.

Passersby were temporarily deafened by the impact and every window in the building was shattered. Huge volumes of white and gray smoke rose over the blazing works and cast a pall over the neighborhood.

Firemen laid three lines of hose and entered the building. The terrific heat drove them forth several times. It was at this point that Dumas again took his life in his hands.

### Employee Risks Life.

Realizing that three more acetylene tanks still remained within the building, and that their presence in that heat endangered the lives of the firemen, he broke away from the party of men who had been giving him first aid across the street and entered the building once more.

He made his way through the smoke and flame to the point where the three tanks remained. All three were red hot, their sides glowing in the semi-gloom of the building. His hands already burned were burned again as he painfully tugged at the valves of the tanks to release the gas. He accomplished his task none too soon. It was estimated that the tanks would have blown up within another five minutes. The firemen worked in ignorance of the danger that might have cost them their lives. Dr. Francis E. Quigley treated the injured men at Rutland hospital. They were not seriously injured and were sent home.

Despite the frantic efforts of the firemen the blaze had made too great headway before they arrived for them to do much more than prevent it from spreading.

The terrific heat of the fire twisted and crumpled the body of the sedan which is owned by H. G. Ellis of the Williams Machine company of Poultney.

A new truck chassis, which had arrived at the shop from Detroit Thursday night, was also destroyed in the fire. The flaming gasoline which rolled over the floor set it afire, and heat and flame soon melted its glass windows and destroyed the metal beyond use. The truck was owned by Potter's garage in West Rutland.

Every piece of equipment in the shop was destroyed as the building was gutted. Only the walls remained standing half an hour after the blaze started.

Altobell said last night that the loss would mount to well over \$10,000. Lost in the fire were \$3000 worth of new springs; the electric welding system; coal forge and blowers; a new lathe for shop work; a number of wheels; the blower systems in the works; the acetylene welders and several furnaces.

Molten glass poured over the hood of the burning sedan, and blazing planks from the roof fell about the firemen while they worked in the gutted shop. Firemen had the blaze under control half an hour after they laid three lines of hose to the building.

Traffic was halted on West street while men and equipment fought the blaze. A large crowd of bystanders gathered across the street and on Meadow street. Several policemen were assigned to direct traffic away from the fire.

MARCH 4, 1939

## Fire Sweeps W. Lee Home

Clinton Avenue House Guttled by Flames During Absence of Family; Loss \$1500.

Raging flames which ate their way up through lath and plaster walls in the kitchen to the second floor did \$1500 damage to the seven-room home of William B. Lee, 28, of 11 Clinton avenue, a clerk at Liggett's drug store, shortly after 9 o'clock last night.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said an overheated flue in the kitchen set the partitions aflame. Lee, his wife and two children, Gloria, a grade-school pupil, and Donald, a year-old infant, were in East Pittsford when the fire occurred, visiting his mother.

The blaze was discovered by Roger Buttles, an insurance agent who lives at 10 Clinton avenue, almost opposite the Lee residence. Buttles saw smoke and flames coming through crevices around the front door and phoned for the trucks. Additional help was summoned by department officials when they arrived.

Firemen attacked the flames with two lines of hose and a booster line. They entered a side door on the west side of the house and quenched the flames which were eating away at the stairs. Another party of firemen mounted ladders to the upper floor where the blaze had shot through the partitions and was charring walls and furniture. The fire was brought under control in less than 15 minutes.

Lee said last night that a good part of the family's personal belongings had been destroyed, in addition to damage to the house itself. He said he was insured.

## Fire Damages Rooney Block

Flames Start in Basement of No. Main Street Building Housing Several Families.

A blaze which spread quickly from hot ashes on the basement floor, up a partition to the first floor, early yesterday morning threatened to demolish the old building known as the Michael F. Rooney estate at 12 North Main street.

Several families occupy the wooden frame building which is fronted by the gas pumps of a service station no longer in operation. The blaze, which was discovered by a neighbor, started in the rear of the building below the apartment occupied by William Fenton.

A telephone call brought two engines to the scene of the fire shortly after 9 o'clock. Two booster lines were brought into play to get the blaze under control.

A group of firemen entered the first floor of the building, and in the pantry and living room occupied by Fenton, hacked away portions of the floor to enable them to get at the flames eating at the ceiling below.

The blaze was brought under control and extinguished little more than half an hour later. Damage to the floor and basement partitions was considerable, fire department officials said last night.

They said the blaze started when hot ashes rolled next to a partition used to block off a portion of the basement and set it afire. Fanned by a draft the flames set fire to the ceiling. The smoke which poured forth from a street level window attracted the attention of a next door neighbor. Fenton, who was home at the time, was not aware of the spreading fire literally beneath his feet. The neighbor's warning brought him to the front door as the trucks arrived.



# Marshal To Probe Cause Of \$35,000 Grandstand Fire

Fair Structure Is Completely Destroyed by Flames Within Few Minutes After Discovery.

## Will Rebuild

Meeting of Trustees Called for Today to Decide Upon Type of Construction to Replace Stand.

Trustees of the Rutland County Agriculture society will meet at the fair association office at the grounds this afternoon at 2 o'clock to make plans for immediate rebuilding of the grandstand which was destroyed Saturday evening by fire of undetermined origin, causing a loss estimated at \$35,000, well covered by insurance.

Alfred H. Koltonski, chief of the fire department, stated yesterday that a request will be sent this morning to Francis Regan, deputy state fire marshal, for an immediate investigation of the blaze. The Vermont laws require, he stated, that the fire marshal's office be notified in all cases where the cause of a serious fire has not been determined.

Only a favorable wind, which blew the flames out over the open oval and away from the many exhibition buildings, prevented further loss. In spite of the efforts of 21 regular and call firemen who remained on the grounds for more than three hours, the north side of the judges' stand across the race track from the grandstand, was charred.

The big industrial building, nearest of the exhibition halls to the stand, became so hot that clouds of steam arose when the firemen played a hose upon it.

Will L. Davis, president of the fair association, was in New York when the fire broke out but he was expected back last night in order to be present at today's meeting.

Secretary Carl W. Olney visited the grounds yesterday with Charles G. Noyes, contractor, and talked over informally plans for rebuilding the stand.

As the 1939 fair opens September 4, only about 10 weeks remain in which to clear away the debris and build a new and more modern building for seating fair visitors and race followers. The type of structure to be put up rests entirely with the trustees, Olney said.

### Flames Spread Rapidly

Although the fire broke out when many persons were about, it was not discovered until it had spread through the entire length of the 400-foot stand which seated about 6000 persons, including the facilities provided by the bleachers.

Many persons seem to have discovered the blaze about the same time, Capt. Francis H. Seward stated yesterday. The central station received a telephone call at 8:10 o'clock from a resident of Park street and, through the apparatus at the station, an alarm was sounded from Box 31, South Main and Park streets. All of the city's fire-fighting apparatus was soon on the grounds and four lines of hose were strung, one from a hydrant on the fairgrounds, near the Park street entrance, and three from water plugs on nearby streets.

The flames had gained such head-

JUNE 19, 1939.

way before discovery and had burned over such a wide area that the entire stand was afire and the roof was beginning to collapse when the firemen arrived.

It was seen at once that the building was doomed, Capt. Beane said, and efforts were devoted to keeping it within bounds. It became necessary at the outset to play water upon the nearest exhibition building to prevent it from catching fire even though the wind was not forcing the flames toward it.

The heat was so intense that it was with the greatest difficulty that the men were able to connect the hose to the hydrant upon the fairgrounds about 125 feet from the burning grandstand.

The dry woodwork of the stand burned like tinder and for a few minutes flames shot high into the air, being visible from a considerable distance.

Hundreds of motorists drove to the scene. Congestion of traffic became so acute that extra officers were sent to the scene to keep vehicles moving.

Firemen continued to pour thousands of gallons of water onto the ruins and it was not until 9:30 o'clock that they sounded the "out" signal and returned to the station. A watch was kept at the grounds all night.

### Stand Completely Ruined

When the men departed, only a few charred timbers were left of the grandstand, a portion of which was nearly 30 years old. With the stand, tenting, chairs, tables, and other equipment owned by the fair association and concessionaires, went up in smoke. These articles were stored under the portion of the stand being the midway.

The flames were burning over such a wide area that it was impossible for the firemen to determine their cause or the part of the stand in which the fire had its inception.

Rumors were afloat that an odor of burning oil could be detected about the time that the fire was discovered and this led to stories of incendiaryism. Firemen were inclined to believe that the odor was due to the burning of tar paper, oilcloth

and other material in the articles in storage.

The eastern section of the grandstand, and this included more than two-thirds of the entire structure, was built in 1910 after an earlier stand had been badly damaged by fire. An addition, which also went up in flames Saturday, was erected in 1922.

The fair management maintains a building fund now amounting to more than \$40,000 which will be available for the erection of a new grandstand. This fund has been increased year by year by taking a portion of the profits of the annual exhibitions. In addition to this amount the association has about \$25,000 in cash assets.

Plans had been made for making a number of improvements at the grounds this season but these may be modified on account of the loss due to the fire, Olney said.

Work on the race track already has been started and men had left the ground only an hour before the fire was discovered.



# Flames Sweep Glass Store

Damage Set at More Than \$1000  
in Fire at Rutland Glass Com-  
pany, Center St.

A blaze, which fire department officials believe was caused by an overheated air duct, destroyed more than \$1000 worth of plate glass and for a while threatened the two-story Valiquette block at 67 Center street.

The fire spread through the walls and ceiling of the Rutland Glass company store and into an adjoining one rented by the Eddy Ice company for the display of refrigerators. Robert L. Accavallo, owner of the store was away when the fire began, as were his wife, and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Mary Valiquette.

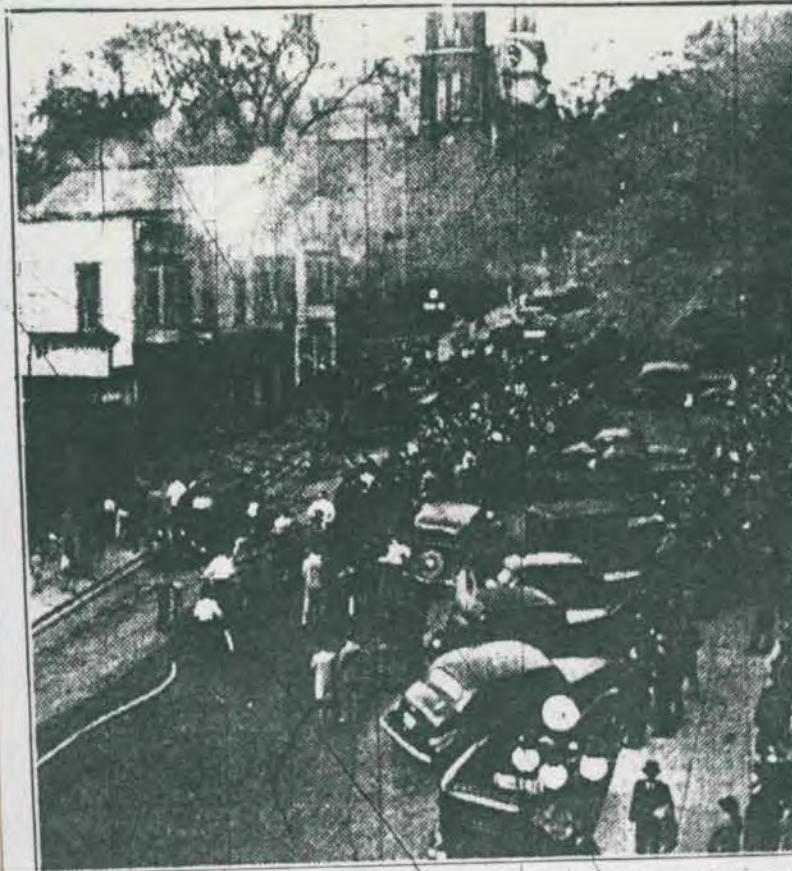
Every piece of equipment in the fire department was mustered to fight the blaze. Fearing a backdraft and explosion, firemen broke the large plate glass show window of the store and attacked the blaze with several lines of hose. Windows in the adjoining store had to be broken as well to gain access to the fire in there.

None of the occupants of the three-apartment block were at home. Accavallo's wife and mother were in Burlington; three waitresses, Misses Florence Spaulding, Becky Davis and Phyllis Lord were at work. Miss Lord's mother was visiting neighbors.

Firemen brought the blaze under control in less than a half hour and from then on devoted their time to salvage work. Traffic on Center street was halted completely as police strove to unravel the resultant tangle. The occupants of the house, who returned one by one, worked frantically to get their belongings out of the block before smoke damaged them.

No sooner had the firemen completed their work on the Valiquette block fire than they were summoned to Kingsley Court apartments where a suspected fire turned out to be nothing more than a scare, and then to North Clarendon where two garages and a henhouse, valued at \$500 by their owners, Leon and Herbert Moulton, were destroyed by fire of undetermined origin.

Hampered by their inability to get sufficient water the firemen stood by and worked to keep the blaze from spreading to adjoining buildings.



Herald Photo.

While every piece of fire apparatus and all Rutland's firemen were battling the stubborn blaze in the Rutland Glass company store on Center street at about 7:30 o'clock last night a large crowd of spectators, including many Shriners here for their spring ceremonial, gathered as shown in the photo above. View shows heavy smoke pouring from store where firemen were forced to smash the front window to ventilate the building so that they could more safely battle the flames in the paint stock and partitions within.

## N. Clarendon Garage Burns

Rutland Firemen Succeed in  
Saving Adjoining Postoffice  
and Two Barns.

(Special to The Herald.)

NORTH CLARENDON, Feb. 13.—Fire today consumed the Cheedle garage in this village, but Rutland firemen, using water from the brook nearby, saved the wooden postoffice building adjoining the garage a foot away, and two barns in the rear of the garage.

The brick and wood garage, some 25 feet wide and of one and one-half stories, caught fire when the stove used to heat it exploded at about 8 o'clock this morning. Claude Pitts, the only person in the building, was compelled to break a rear window and make his exit through it as flames cut off the front entrance.

As the flames spread rapidly, Postmaster Francis E. Dennis moved all the valuable documents from the postoffice to a house across the street. Mr. Carrie Maranville, owner of the barns threatened, also prepared to move important objects housed there to safety, but the four Rutland firemen sent here to fight the fire drenched postoffice and barns sufficiently to protect them from the flames.

During the firemen's battle, a line of hose burst from pressure of the water, bathing firemen and several spectators, and throwing Timothy Cheedle, who rented the garage since 1926 from Mrs. Jessie Barney of Swanzee, Mass., forcibly to the ground.

Cheedle suffered painful cuts and bruises on his hands and arms.

The garage was insured, but \$1000 worth of tools owned by Cheedle, destroyed in the fire, were not insured. Four stripped motors were among the equipment ruined in the garage.

## Fireman H. D. Olson Suffers Burned Arm in Fighting Flue Blaze

Department Kept Busy by Over-  
heated Chimneys as Home-  
owners Combat Cold.

Flames seared the left arm of Fireman Herbert D. Olson as he prepared to turn the stream from a booster hose down the blazing chimney at 34 Meadow street shortly before 7 o'clock last night.

Olson and other members of the department had responded to an alarm at the Meadow street building, which is occupied by families of Anthony Altobelli and J. H. Vargas. A neighbor had telephoned the first alarm and the firemen themselves sent a summons for additional help.

Attack the blaze from the roof, Olson had clambered up the shingled surface and was thrusting the hose nozzle toward the blaze when the flames shot up, burned away the cloth of his coat and seared his arm.

His injuries did not deter him from continuing the work of putting out the fire. He was given first aid later at the fire station. The burn did not necessitate medical attention.

Damage from the blaze resulted from smoke and water which penetrated chimney openings in two rooms on the upper floor of the house.

Two other chimney blazes resulting from forcing fires to combat the cold weather were extinguished by department members earlier in the day. The first occurred at 191 Crescent street, the home of Robert L. Stevens and Lewis P. King, and the other at 257 West street, a building occupied by Frank N. Willis.

Walls and partitions on the upper floor of the latter building were scorched when the flames spread from an unused flue to the walls. Streams from a booster line were used to bring the blaze under control. Damage was slight.

## Strong's Ave. Tenement Is Damaged By Flames

Fire broke out in a tenement in the rear of the Joseph Sabatano block at 38 Strong's avenue last night and Rutland firemen quickly quenched the blaze before it could spread through the old building which has been standing for at least 50 years.

Chief A. H. Koltanski stated that he believed the fire started from a "carelessly dropped match" in a woodshed attached to one of the apartments. He estimated the damage at \$50, accruing from both fire, smoke and water. Four trucks responded to the general alarm, sounded at about 7:30 o'clock and firemen used a stream from a booster tank and one half-inch hose in putting out the fire.



## Burst of Alarms Halts Firemen's Spring Clean-Up

Yesterday was a hectic day for members of the Rutland fire department. What with four fires within a 43-minute period, the annual spring housecleaning underway and a cat to rescue from a high pole, things came thick and fast.

The damage from fire was confined to \$25 loss on a barn at the rear of the home of Carleton Wilson, 18 East Center street, and the burning over of about an acre of wild brushland on upper Pierpoint avenue.

The renovation of the downtown quarters went on without interruption during the early hours of the morning and the men were swashing down walls with sponges to good advantage when the telephone suddenly jingled at 11:07 o'clock. It was only a grass fire on Chaplin avenue, at the extreme southern limit of the city, and the wind-driven blaze was soon subdued with the contents of pack pumps by a crew which tossed their sponges aside for a few minutes.

But there was to be no further opportunity to resume the wall washing during the morning hours. At 11:15, before the crew had returned from Chaplin avenue, a telephone call came from East Center street. A small refuse fire had gotten out of control and flames were consuming clapboards at one corner of the large Wilson barn, in the heart of one of the city's best residential districts. Firemen soon had one or more streams from booster tanks on the building but there was a possibility that the fire might assume serious consequences so that an alarm was sounded on box 32, South Main and Center streets, from the transmitter system at headquarters to summon more call men. The blaze was soon under control, damage being confined to a few charred clapboards and scorching within the partitions.

While the Wilson fire was burning briskly, at 11:20 o'clock, there was a telephone summons for a brush fire at Pierpoint avenue and it was necessary for the officers of the fire department to spare a crew with pack pumps to pour water upon the burning brushland. The damage was not serious as no valuable timber was affected.

Before all of the various crews had returned to their headquarters at 11:50 a. m., another telephone summons was received. There was a grass fire at the Howe Scale plant which was threatening to engulf lumber piles at the plant. Again fearing that there might be serious consequences, Ralph R. Beane, deputy chief of the fire department, ordered an alarm sent in over the transmitter system to let men in the field know about the blaze. The whistle tooted the number 36, Howe Scale company private box. The two siren alarms came so close together that some persons who tried to count the blasts became confused. There was no damage to scale company property.

The fire-fighting apparatus had barely been packed away before the firemen were requested by a resident of Preville avenue in city park to remove from the top of a high pole a cat which had been crying piteously for hours. The rescue was effected without mishap or interruption.

Shortly before 9 o'clock last night the firemen took to the road again, this time to quench a grass fire on Woodstock avenue near the corner of North Main street.

## Fire Sweeps Baird Barns

Chittenden Farm Buildings Destroyed Quickly; Loss Set at \$6000.

Three barns on the Frank H. Baird farm in Chittenden went up in flames yesterday afternoon with a resultant \$6000 loss.

All farm equipment in the three barns were destroyed, a bull and a pig perished in the fire and 10 tons of hay were a charred mass as the leaping flames spread quickly from one barn to the other.

The fire began shortly before 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, a member of the family stated last night. Firemen were told that children had been playing in the barn and had come running up to the house shouting that the big horse barn was ablaze.

Neighbors formed a voluntary fire brigade in an attempt to prevent the blaze from spreading and finally a truck from the Rutland Fire department was summoned. The firemen arrived as the flames were spreading through the roof of the big barn.

Hampered in their work by lack of water the firemen used water from their own booster tank, which was fed by volunteers. The three buildings burned quickly and firemen had a hard fight to prevent the blaze from spreading to a fourth barn six feet away from the flames.

A shift in the wind and protecting trees across the road kept the fire from spreading to the Baird dwelling. A calf and three pigs were removed from the smaller barns, but the owners were forced back by the heat from the barn in which the bull was tied.

Frank H., and Minnie Baird, brother and sister, are owners of the farm.

APRIL 13, 1939.

## Hot Ashes Start Fire in Two-Tenement House, Causing \$200 Damage

Building at 112 Woodstock Avenue Threatened as Flames Spread Into Attic.

A fire, said to have started from hot ashes left on the rear porch of the second floor, causing approximately \$200 damage yesterday afternoon in a two-tenement house at 112 Woodstock avenue occupied by Isaiah J. Matt and John D. Crandall.

The ashes burned a hole into the side of the porch and the flames spread through the partition to the attic before the smoke was discovered. While the firemen prepared several lines of hose to combat the flames, only water from the booster tank was necessary to put them out.

The alarm was sounded from Box 24 shortly after 3 o'clock. Traffic at the juncture of Woodstock avenue and Temple street was handled by Chief of Police William P. Fox, who responded with the alarm.

NOVEMBER 6, 1939.

## W. J. Hackett Skips Death

Brown Street Man's Life Imperiled as Gas Fumes Explode in Station.

William J. Hackett, proprietor of a filling station at 104 River street, narrowly escaped death or the harrowing experience of being blown through the roof of his station yesterday.

He lit a match in the basement which was filled with fumes from a leaky gasoline pipe.

The result was a small explosion from which Hackett escaped without burns by dashing up cellar stairs. The fire followed him up, however, and flames wrought several hundred dollars worth of damage to the interior of the station.

Rutland firemen were called to the scene at 1:20 yesterday afternoon and were back at the station reloading their hose 40 minutes later. Chief A. H. Koltonski explained that only one hose was laid to the building and that a vapor nozzle was used to diffuse the stream of water into a blanket of moisture which quenched the flames.

Hackett, who lives on Brown street, explained that he had gone down to the cellar to look for something, lit a match, and everything went "boom." He streaked upstairs and several friends raced off to sound the alarm. Flames charred most of the interior woodwork and blackened cans and tools.

The firemen were called out at noon yesterday to investigate an overheated chimney in the home of Charles E. Burns, 33 Meadow street.

## J. C. Gillespie Store On Columbian Avenue Is Guttled By Flames

A defective oil heater was blamed for a fire which yesterday morning gutted the J. C. Gillespie Grocery store at 219 Columbian avenue, causing damage to the building and stock estimated at \$250.

The one-story wooden structure was a mass of flames when the firemen arrived shortly after the sounding of the alarm at 6:15 o'clock. Water from two lines connected with the booster tank was used to put out the flames.

Gillespie had lighted the heater to warm up the room. His attention was later attracted to the heater as flames spread rapidly from it to the wall and ceiling. The fire was put out in half an hour by the firemen and volunteers. Gillespie has operated the store for several years. There was not much stock in the building at the time.



NOVEMBER 20, 1939.

## Oil Burner Starts Fire

Pinball Machine Company Office on Evelyn Street Damaged by Flames.

Flames, originating at about 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon in a defective oil burning stove in the offices of the Rutland Novelty company at 24 Evelyn street, caused damage estimated at \$500 to fixtures and partitions. Smoke resulting from the blaze caused undetermined loss to a stock of mattresses, furniture, shoes and other stock owned by the Economy store and stored in the two-story former garage.

The fire was discovered almost simultaneously by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski who was driving along Evelyn street with his family, and by Raymond Burke, a Novelty company employe, who was walking across the street. Koltonski ordered a box alarm sounded to summon all fire fighting equipment because of the location in the business district.

Streams from booster lines were used to quickly squelch the flames emanating from the circulating oil heater. Two partitions and the ceiling were severely charred by flames and a pinball machine about three feet from the stove was scorched.

In an adjoining room, more than a score of machines under repair were undamaged. On the second floor a quantity of furniture, shoes and other merchandise sustained smoke damage.

Maurice Zimmerman, manager of the Economy store, said last night that extent of damage to stored goods in the building could not be determined until today when they will be inspected. Without consulting office records, he was unable to place a value on the merchandise stored in the structure.

Deputy Chief Ralph R. Bean, after an investigation of the fire on order of Chief Koltonski, said he found the stove pipe leading from the heater did not connect to any chimney. It was merely extended through a hole in the second floor giving vent to heat and smoke into the second story room. He said apparently the stove became flooded and caught fire.

The firemen also were called out for three minor grass fires during the day, at Geno avenue, Charles street and East Washington street.

APRIL 6, 1939.

## Family Saved From Flames

Charles Barrett Rescues Wife and Son as Gay Street Home Is Destroyed.

After awakening his wife and 10-year-old son and rushing them, clad in night clothing from their burning two-room home near the southeastern limits of the city early yesterday morning, Charles Barrett of Gay street ran a quarter of a mile to a telephone to summon the Rutland Fire department.

The fire trucks arrived in five minutes at Curtis avenue, the nearest road to the burning structure. Under the direction of Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, the firemen were obliged to lay 1000 feet of hose across a field, from the Curtis avenue hydrant.

Although the two-room house, which had been covered with tar paper, was destroyed in approximately 20 minutes, the fireman succeeded in saving an adjoining barn, in which a horse and a cow were kept.

Chief Koltonski said that the exact cause of the fire had not yet been determined. He said Barrett reported that he had arisen before 6 o'clock and started a fire in a kitchen stove. He then went to the barn to tend the animals and a few minutes later saw smoke coming from the roof of his house. The property was covered by \$800 insurance.

The fire department responded to two other calls yesterday, a fire in a stove pipe at 116 Forest street at 7:53 a. m., and a chimney fire at 139 State street at 1:45 p. m.

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## Firemen Kept Busy By 10 Alarms as Rutland Residents Fight Cold

Beginning with a false alarm at 2 o'clock yesterday morning Rutland firemen answered 10 alarms yesterday, including the tragic blaze on Evelyn street early last night.

The false alarm was turned in at Box 37 at the corner of Madison street and Strongs avenue. The last alarm of the day was also turned in there for a chimney fire on Post street.

The remaining fires, occurred at 163 West street, the home of Alexander G. Freeman, where a chimney blaze was extinguished; 116 South street, a needless alarm; 23 Dana avenue, a chimney fire; 122 Woodstock avenue, the home of Louis Chalioux, where a chimney blaze charred partitions on an upper floor; 5 Leonard street, the home of John T. Thompson; and 86 Brown street, the home of Raymond F. Burke. The last two were chimney fires which did no damage.

## Spark Ignites Cleaners' Gas

Explosion at Brown's Shop on North Street Causes Injury to F. E. Coursey.

A static spark from a metal-shot silk dress ignited a 30-gallon vat of gasoline yesterday afternoon in a cleaning shed at the Brown Cleaners & Dyers establishment at 94 North street, causing an explosion which hurled an employe, Frank E. Coursey the length of the shed, and burned him painfully about face and hands, fire department officials said.

Flames shot up from the vat and set the roof afire. The noise of the blast and the flames which shot out through the eaves of the sawdust-insulated roof attracted the attention of George Brown, a son of the owner, who was painting a smokestack on the roof of an adjoining building.

He scrambled down from the roof, and summoned his brother, Robert, who telephoned for the fire trucks. Two trucks answered the summons after firemen were forced to turn in a box alarm. The blaze was brought under control less than 15 minutes after firemen arrived.

Using a carbon-tetrachloride extinguisher, a booster line and a big hose, 14 firemen fought the blaze, braving several minor gasoline explosions from the flaming liquid in the vat.

Entering a door on the north side of the building, employes of the establishment assisted firemen in removing a large pile of clothing which was in process of being cleaned. David G. Brown, proprietor of the concern, said last night that the greater part of it had been saved, but that in any case it was insured.

Workman Hurled Backward.

According to fire department officials the blaze was caused by a spark from metallic elements in a silk dress which Coursey was cleaning. The spark ignited the vapor hanging over the vat, causing an explosion and igniting the remainder of the gasoline in the tub. The suddenness of the explosion gave Coursey no chance to retreat.

The Gibson street man was hurled backward and the sudden flames seared his face and hands as he was propelled toward the half-open door. Employes rushed to his aid as he ran out of the shed. He was taken to the office of Dr. James J. Reedy who said last night that while the flames had singed his hair and eyebrows and burned his face and hands severely, his condition was not serious.

The principal difficulty which kept firemen working on the building long after the main blaze in the vat had been extinguished and most of the clothing removed, was the sawdust filling used for insulation between the roof and the ceiling.

The ceiling was burned through and the sawdust set afire. The flames ate their way through the easy-burning material. Access to the heavily-packed sawdust was difficult. It was finally extinguished after a considerable amount of water from a booster line had been sprayed under the eaves of the roof.

The greater part of the clothing was removed. So quickly was the blaze brought under control that at no time was there any chance of it spreading to the main building of the cleaning plant. The greater portion of customers' clothing was stored in there at the time. Little damage resulted to the shed other than to the ceiling and roof. Smoke and flame damage which resulted to clothing in the building is believed to be negligible, the proprietor said.



## Explosion Of Stove Causes Man's Death

Wilfred Hartford, 76, Dies  
of Burns Suffered in Fire  
in Landon Block.

Oil Heater Blows Up

Neighbors and Police Smash  
Down Door to Rescue Un-  
conscious Victim.

After being dragged from his flaming room by rescuers who were forced to break open a door to reach him, Wilfred Hartford, 76, old-age pensioner, died at 10:50 o'clock in Rutland hospital last night from burns sustained when an oil heater exploded in his flat in the Landon block on Evelyn street, resulting in a general fire alarm at 6:30 o'clock.

Attracted by the screams of Miss Anna McGrath, a tenant who saw smoke pouring out from under the Hartford door, John Lynch, 68, a laborer, and James McGowan, neighbors in the block, broke open the locked door leading into Hartford's second-floor flat and pulled him into the hallway.

Police Officer John E. Mangan, who was patrolling the street, also was attracted by the woman's shouts. He assisted Lynch and McGowan breaking into the room and carrying Hartford down the stairs to the street and into Anthony Pratico's barber shop, adjacent to the street door.

As the firemen quickly brought the flames under control, Hartford was taken to the hospital in an ambulance where his condition was pronounced as critical by Dr. Robert P. Williams. He was badly burned about the head and body and at no time was given a chance to recover.

Lynch, who sustained minor burns about the hands and face in assisting in pulling Hartford into the hallway, was given first aid treatment by Deputy Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean and Call Man George W. Perk, 3d, before being taken to the hospital for further treatment by Dr. Williams.

Except for a small amount of water which seeped through the floor of the tenement, situated in the corner of the brick building, into the F. C. Freeborn & Co. General Electric store, the damage, estimated at \$500, was restricted to the flat.

Oliver LaMountain who lives on the same floor told the firemen that Hartford visited with him and Harold McNulty a few minutes before the explosion.

LaMountain said that Hartford had several pieces of cardboard under the heater which leaked.

It was believed that Hartford was sitting near the heater at the time and that he was overcome by the flames which ignited his clothing before he could open the door which he was in the habit of keeping locked.

When she smelled smoke, Miss McGrath began an investigation. Noticing the smoke coming from under the door she attempted to force it open. Unable to gain entrance she cried for help and then returned to her tenement where she fainted.

Hartford has lived in the Landon block for approximately three months. According to LaMountain, Hartford is unmarried.

The body was taken to the MacDonald funeral home. As far as could be learned Hartford has no near relatives in Vermont.

## Fire Damages Scale Plant

Blaze Breaks Out in Woodworking Shop Stack; Small Loss Results.

A noon-hour fire at the Howe Scale company yesterday brought out the full fire department complement and attracted a large crowd to the Strongs avenue establishment.

Fire of undetermined origin set a wooden ventilator shaft ablaze on the roof of the woodworking building of the company. Three sprinkler heads melted in the region of the fire and an alarm was turned in automatically as water began to spray the upper floor of the building.

The firemen raised ladders against the walls of the building and clambered over the roof with two lines of hose and a booster line. They brought the blaze under control in less than 15 minutes.

Streams of water from the sprinklers, however, took their toll on the upper floor and its equipment before the automatic apparatus was shut off.

A. N. Lyons, vice president of the Howe Scale company, said last night that he could make no exact estimate of the damage caused by fire and water, but said that it was small.

Another business district alarm brought every piece of apparatus onto Merchants Row shortly before 6 o'clock last night. A short circuit in an electric light fixture at the Economy store was the cause of the alarm. There was no fire.

Shortly before the Economy store alarm was sounded firemen quenched a chimney blaze at 20 Pine street, the home of Mrs. Elizabeth C. LaFay. No damage resulted.

## Match Sets Store Afire

Frank Moscaticello, 13, Lights  
Kerosene While Filling Jug;  
Damage Set at \$200.

A match which set a small pool of kerosene ablaze early last night resulted in damage of more than \$200 to a small grocery store owned by Joseph Moscaticello of 38 Howe street.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said last night the fire began when Frank Moscaticello, 13, son of the owner, filled a glass kerosene jug in the rear of the store, lit a match when the jug overflowed and set the kerosene-covered floor aflame.

Seized by panic the boy attempted to beat the flames out with his hands. He called for aid at the same time and his mother, who was sitting in the front room of their home, which is adjacent to the store, went to his aid and dragged him from the smoke and flame-filled stock room of the grocery store. She later fainted as a result of her exertions, but was revived promptly.

A friends of the Moscaticello family turned in an alarm at the corner of Howe and Union streets. Trucks from both stations answered the alarm. Two booster lines were used to quench the blaze. All lights in the store were extinguished when flames melted the fuses.

Damage to the stock and store itself amounted to more than \$200 Chief Koltonski said.

## 3 Flee As Home Burns

David S. Craig of Stratton Road,  
Wife and Infant Son Have  
Narrow Escape.

A Stratton road householder, his wife and infant son barely escaped with their lives early this morning when a quickly-spreading blaze swept through their five-room house, gutted the building and destroyed all their possessions.

Mrs. David S. Craig, wife of the Stratton road man, was prostrated shortly after she and her husband with their year-old son, Ronald, made their escape from the blazing building by knocking the glass out of their bedroom window and clambering down to the muddy ground and safety. She was taken to the home of a neighbor, Earl E. Knipes and treated for shock by Dr. Henry J. Frengosi.

It was she who discovered the blaze. She and her husband had gone to bed and had been asleep for some time when she was roused by the crackle of flames in the rear of their one-story home. She waked her husband who ran for the child.

Clad only in their night-clothing and garments which they seized hurriedly in their flight, Craig and his wife broke the window in the bedroom, which faces Stratton road, and ran for aid. Firemen were summoned from the home of a neighbor.

Trucks from both stations were hampered in their efforts to get to the fire by the extremely muddy condition of Curtis avenue. Despite these obstacles they made the run rapidly.

### Spreads Swiftly.

They arrived to find the blaze spreading swiftly through the front of the building. The fire was brought under control less than 45 minutes after they arrived, but too late to save the building, which Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said this morning, was practically destroyed.

Many call firemen and spectators attempting to get to the fire were mired in the mud of Curtis avenue and had to be pulled out.

Neither Craig nor the child was injured by the fire, although had they remained in the building a short time longer the trio might have been seriously injured or killed, it was said by neighbors.

Several lines of hose were laid by the fire-fighters in their effort to bring the blaze under control and the fire was attacked both from the front and rear of the building.

## Firemen Answer Five Alarms Over Week-End

A false alarm at 1:25 o'clock yesterday morning was rung in from box 63 on the corner of Granger and River streets and the fire department answered four other calls during the week-end. All the fire calls were telephone alarms and none of the blazes did serious damage.

A chimney fire Saturday morning at 133 South street, listed as the home of Luigi Christie and Sisto Zambon, was the first call while a burning electric motor at 175 West street, listed as the home of William A. Onion, was the second call. At 11:20 o'clock Saturday morning the department was called upon to extinguish gas burning in the carburetor of a car in the Bardwell garage on Washington street and 10 minutes later a call was put through to the department from the Oslund Studio on Merchants Row. An overheated or defective stove pipe, according to Deputy Chief Ralph R. Bean, was responsible for a fire in the partition between the third and attic stories of the building. The department was forced to rip out the partition to extinguish the blaze.



## Fire Sweeps Mike's Lunch

Flames Spread to Second Floor of Wooden Connolly Block on Wales St.; Damage, \$600.

Immediate arrival of the Rutland Fire department yesterday prevented a \$600 fire, which originated in the kitchen of "Mike's Lunch" in the Connolly block at 71 Wales street, from spreading to the Strand theater building and other places of business and dwellings nearby.

For the second time in six years, Mrs. Florence A. Rea, 70, and her little white poodle, who occupied an apartment directly over the lunchroom, were rescued by firemen as smoke filled her living quarters. The woman and her pet were carried by Chief Alfred H. Koltonski from the top story of the Kinnox building on Wales street, destroyed in a \$16,000 fire on February 9, 1934.

The entire fire department, with three trucks, responded to a box alarm at 1:11 o'clock yesterday afternoon. At that time scores of persons were attracted to the scene by pillars of black smoke which poured from the two-story wooden building.

The flames originated in the kitchen of the lunchroom on the first floor, when a pan of grease in which Mike Phillips, proprietor, was frying food over a gas stove, became ignited. The fire quickly spread to the wallboard back of the stove, and then extended to the lunchroom, and to the floor and walls of the upstairs tenement, where Mrs. Rea operates a lodging house.

As firemen were checking the flames in the lunchroom, from which four or five customers quickly fled as the conflagration spread, Capt. Frank H. Seward and Chief Koltonski rushed to the upstairs tenement, where Mrs. Rea was groping in a smoke-filled hallway. She refused to leave the building without her pet dog and her fur coat.

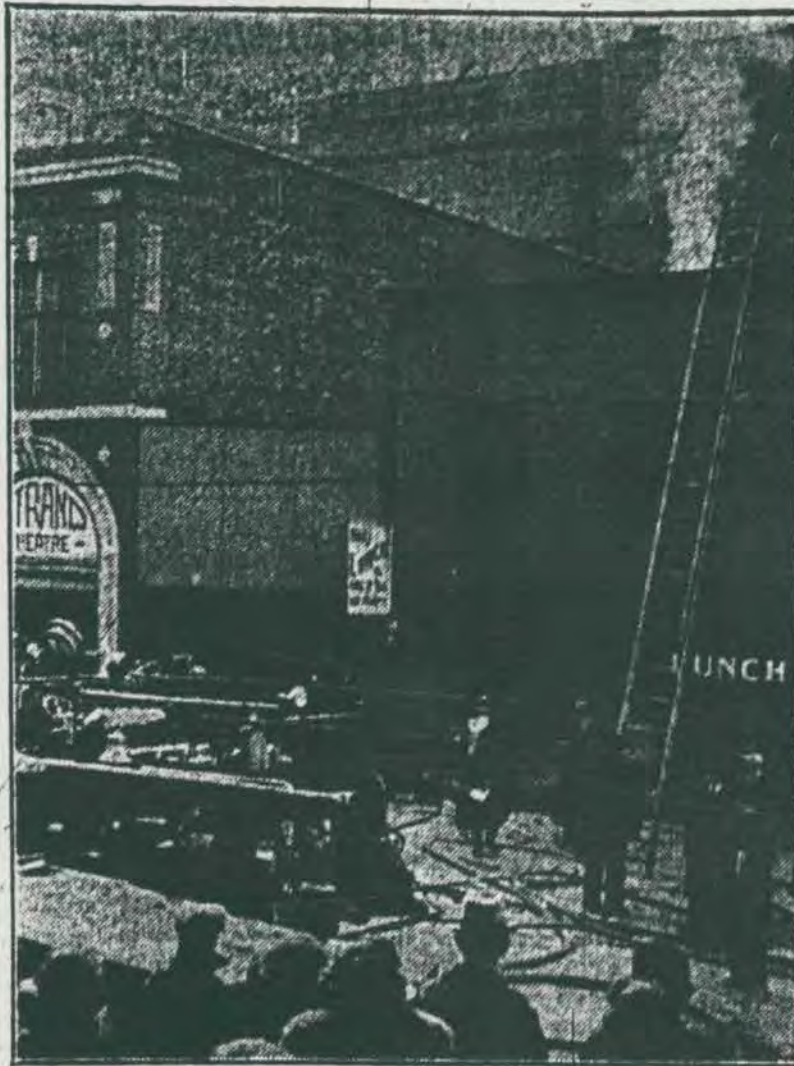
As Capt. Seward retrieved the poodle from his hiding place under a blanket on a bed, Chief Koltonski seized the woman's coat, and she was led to the street. In the 1934 fire Mrs. Rea remained in the burning Kinnox building until the fire was well underway because she did not wish to abandon her pets—the dog and two kittens. Later one of the kittens was rescued on a window ledge by firemen.

The bar and walls of the lunchroom were charred and a large plate glass window was shattered by the heat. The walls of the kitchen behind the lunchroom and the floor and walls of the upstairs tenement were burned. When the fire was finally checked at 2:15 o'clock, firemen cleaned up water and debris in the Rea tenement.

After the fire, Phillips went back into the kitchen of the first floor and recovered a bag of money in bills from a gas oven where he had placed it in the excitement. He also picked up from the floor a pile of coins, which had been placed in a bag in a pocket of his coat which hung on the wall before the blaze was discovered. The coat and the cloth bag were burned to ashes, but the coins were not damaged.

The two-story wooden building is owned by James Connolly of Washington street. The structure also houses the Connolly Plumbing shop and another living tenement, which were not damaged.

In addition to the regular firemen on duty, all call firemen and members of the department enjoying a "day off" hurried to the scene when the alarm was sounded.



Herald Photo.  
The scene in front of the Connolly block on Wales street yesterday afternoon is shown above as firemen battled a blaze which originated in Mike's Lunch on the first floor and spread to the second story apartment of Mrs. Florence Rea. Nearby Strand theater was threatened for a time.

## Fires Cause \$700 Damage

Parlor of Granger Street House Burned; Shed of Grant Avenue Home Razed.

Two potentially dangerous fires were extinguished by the Rutland Fire department yesterday before they could gain appreciable headway but not until they had caused damage estimated in excess of \$700. Both blazes were in residential districts.

The entire front parlor of the house at 75 Granger street, home of Salvatore Vitagliano and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Orazio Curzio, was destroyed in the forenoon fire and considerable smoke damage was caused through the rest of the house.

Engines 1 and 3 responded to a box alarm at 10:07 o'clock and it was not until a half hour later that the blaze was sufficiently under control to release the alarm box. Deputy Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean estimated the damage to the home at \$300 and said the cause of the blaze was listed in the city fire records as "unknown."

A special alarm from "phantom" box 411 was put through from the fire station after a telephone alarm said the rear part of the building at 43 Grant avenue was burning. The alarm was recorded at 3:50 p. m. and engines 1 and 3 were again dispatched to the fire. The house is owned by Clara K. N. Johnson and is the home of William B. Hinton downstairs and Mrs. E. Moynihan upstairs.

According to Deputy Chief Bean the entire rear shed, encasing a back stairway, was aflame. In the shed, he said, was a barrel of oil which failed to ignite during the fire. Considerable smoke damage within the living quarters of the house was caused by the blaze and damage was estimated at \$400.

TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 20, 1940.

## Fire Damages Storehouse

Large Quantity of Mattresses, Furniture Damaged or Destroyed in Blaze.

Fire of undetermined origin last night badly damaged a two and one-half story storehouse on the south side of School street, near Forest street, and ruined a large quantity of mattresses, oilcloth and furniture stored in the place by Mrs. Libby Z. Lash of 13 Birchwood avenue, proprietor of the Union Furniture company and owner of the building. Mrs. Lash is the widow of Benjamin W. Lash.

The structure was formerly used for many years by the city as a public school building. It was abandoned by the school department prior to 1920 and later was put to various uses, being sold about four years ago to the late B. W. Lash, whose estate had been using it for storage purposes.

The damage to building and contents was variously estimated at \$3000 to \$5000. Mrs. Lash stated that the stock stored in the building, which is listed for taxation purposes at \$1800, was inventoried at \$5000. After a hurried inspection of the darkened upper story she stated that much of the furniture, including many chairs, now irreplaceable because of general business conditions, escaped serious damage, she believed. The stock on the lower floor was ruined however.

No one had been in the building since shortly after 7 o'clock yesterday morning when men loaded some furniture on a truck for delivery, Mrs. Lash said.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said that he had not been able to determine the cause of the fire.

The blaze, which was discovered about 6:40 o'clock, gave the Rutland auxiliary fire department its first opportunity to attend a real fire. Designated by their long red boots, the auxiliary men could be picked out here and there throughout the two hours during which the department fought the blaze. They devoted their efforts principally to salvage work.

The blaze consumed much of the woodwork of the lower floor of the building, including the ceiling. Stringing three lines of regulation hose, besides three of the inch and one-half type, the firemen succeeded in confining the stubborn blaze to the lower floor. The blaze in the woodwork soon was subdued, the long fight being made necessary by the smoldering mattresses and upholstered furniture, much of which was carried out of doors and sprayed with water.

The blaze was discovered by a passerby who sent in an alarm from Box 64, River and Forest streets, which brought all of the city's fire-fighting apparatus to the scene.

Chief Koltonski stated that he and his men found a hot fire burning when they arrived. Interior woodwork was burning in several places and the fire had eaten its way through many mattresses stacked on the floor. Dense smoke was billowing from the building.

It was necessary to pour hundreds of gallons of water into the storehouse before the firemen could begin carrying out the smoldering bedding and furniture.

The chief believes that the fire had its inception near the rear of the storehouse as the seat of the blaze was there when the department arrived.

The storehouse, which is 60 by 115 feet in dimensions, is nestled among several frame houses and is only a few hundred feet away from the big wooden factory of the Dick Dress company.



# Rutland Business District Threatened By \$30,000 Blaze

Theater Stage and Dressing Room Destroyed by Flames; \$17,000 Worth of Tires, Accessories in Danger.

## In Beane Shop

Janitor Discovers Blaze But Origin Is Undetermined; K. of C. Show to Be Given at Paramount.

A spectacular \$30,000 fire late yesterday afternoon attracted a crowd of 1500 persons to Wales street where flames roared through the Strand theater stage and dressing rooms, and storerooms of Ray Beane, inc. Firemen fought for an hour to keep flames from spreading to the heart of the Rutland business district.

After an early investigation last night, Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said he believes the fire started in the dressing room section of the building under the stage. He will be unable to give his official version until members have cooled and he can enter that part of the building.

George E. Sargent, manager of the Paramount theater and also agent for the Rutland Theater Enterprises, inc., owners of the Strand theater, was unable last night to state the exact amount of the loss to the theater company.

The theater has not been operated regularly for several years, but at the time the fire broke out the place was being put in readiness for the rights of Columbus show which is to have been given there Tuesday and Wednesday. Tonight more than a hundred young people would have been in the place preparing for dress rehearsal. They did not occupy the place yesterday.

Walter Murray, theater janitor, discovered the fire and telephoned in an alarm. The first alarm was rung 3:28 o'clock and a second at 5:45 o'clock.

Murray told Chief Koltonski that he heard an explosion toward the front of the theater while he was cleaning the lobby. Rushing toward the staircase leading to the basement, Murray was met by thick smoke, he said.

The lobby of the theater and the main store are located in a building built by Cairo temple, Shrine. The theater and stage are in an addition built in later years. Koltonski said an explosion was not from the boiler which is located in the Cairo temple building.

Firemen during the first 20 minutes of the fire were met by rolling billows of thick black smoke and were unable to penetrate far enough into the building to discover the seat of the blaze.

During the early part of their fight, Koltonski's men poured water from six hoses through doors and windows. Streams from two lines were played on the building from the north and south entrances and one from windows on the east. Two more were

taken over the roof and the sixth was taken in through the lobby.

Fire was confined entirely beyond the proscenium arch of the stage and damage on the floor of the theater was from water only.

A false roof, or "penthouse" roof, over the stage which automatically drops in case of fire, fell to the floor of the stage and with the asbestos curtain in front, a chimney was formed of the stage and flames were drawn quickly through the roof. Koltonski gave praise to his men who chopped through the roof in other places to widen the flue. He said that several times they narrowly escaped falling into the inferno when flames ate through the portion of the roof where they stood.

Capt. Frank Seward saved the lives of several of his men when he ordered them out of the south side of the building just before a hot air explosion.

With a strong wind from the south, Chief Koltonski feared for the safety of the buildings on Center street. As a precautionary measure, he telephoned the West Rutland fire department to stand by for a call. The West Rutland men arrived voluntarily at the scene at 8:15 o'clock, and members of the Wallingford fire department, hearing of the fire, also were among the many volunteers who assisted the department.

Most of the blaze was caused from burning scenery, gridiron rafters supporting scenery, flimsy partitions of the dressing rooms and tires stored in the basement rooms of the Beane company which run under the theater.

Nearly \$17,000 worth of new and old tires, batteries and automotive accessories were damaged either by fire or water in the Beane storage rooms. Three carloads of new tires were stored in the place last week. Harold M. Beane, president and treasurer, placed the valuation of his tires at \$10,000, which he said was covered by insurance. About 500 new batteries were damaged by water. Because of deep water in part of the basement and smoldering embers in the storeroom next to the theater dressing rooms, Beane could not definitely estimate his loss last night.

Also lost by Beane were all of his business records up to 1938, which had been stored in the basement Saturday after completion of an inventory.

The Masonic temple is separated from the building only by a narrow passageway and firemen constantly played a hose into the burning building from the iron bridge which connects the two places.

Only a double wall separates the theater from the Bardwell garage operated by Joseph A. Abel. As smoke seeped into the garage, 550 tires were thrown from the windows and trucked to the Mintzer place on West street.

A motor-run floodlight was set up on the main floor of the theater where for several hours water was played on the smoldering embers beneath the stage. Firemen escaped again when a chandelier six feet square crashed. Water soaked plaster throughout the building was constantly falling while firemen finished up their task.

Rutland firemen were once again praised for quick, efficient work. Both Sargent and Beane praised the entire force.

Officers of the Knights of Columbus announced last night that their show will be transferred to the Paramount theater where shows will be given both afternoon and night on Wednesday and Thursday.

## Fire Causes \$1000 Loss

Defective Wiring in Attic Photo Darkroom Sets Blaze in Beaudette Home.

Defective wiring was blamed by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski for a \$1000 fire last night in the attic of 68 Pine street, home of Mrs. Hortense Beaudette and family, owned by Napoleon M. Burr. The attic was gutted, furniture and photographic equipment was destroyed and the roof was partially burned through.

An alarm was rung in from Box 15 at the corner of Pine street and Park avenue shortly after 7 o'clock and the fire department responded with the hook and ladder and pump trucks. Flames were shooting from the chimney, roof and attic windows when the equipment arrived. Firemen set up ladders, climbed to the roof and played a stream down from the smoking roof. The fire was extinguished within half an hour.

According to Chief Koltonski, part of the attic was used as a dark room and investigation determined the blaze had started from around an electric switchboard with four sockets wired on a plank. The room was used by Maurice Roberge, son of Mrs. Beaudette by a former marriage, and his photographic supplies and equipment were ruined. The loss, which included furniture stored in the attic as well as the dark room and the attic and roof, was covered by insurance, Chief Koltonski said.

Earlier in the day firemen were called to extinguish two grass fires, one at Lincoln avenue and Vernon street and the other on East street which threatened the home of Leo DiMaggio and Leo F. McGee.

## Morning Fire Drives Burns Family From Dwelling in Mendon

Fire of undetermined origin yesterday morning damaged one end of the house, owned by Mrs. F. F. Sweeney of Rutland, and occupied by the family of Henry Burns, a half mile below Mendon village on U. S. Route 4. Rutland firemen, pumping water from the cellar cistern, put down the blaze before excessive damage was done.

The Rutland department was summoned when Mrs. Burns, visiting at the neighboring home of the Walter Jackson family, noticed flames from a shed beside her own home licking the clapboards of the house. She ran home to rescue her children, who number four, and after getting them safely out of the house, Mrs. Burns fainted from excitement.

Passersby aided in taking furniture from the house while the firemen were on their way from Rutland. Burns was away when the fire started, about 9:30 a. m. Before firemen had it controlled the flames had burned into two upper story rooms, damaging them considerably.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski stated last night that Rutland firemen had been delayed 15 minutes in starting toward the fire because no one could be found to guarantee the \$50 payment assessed on all out-of-town fire calls.



MARCH 2, 1940.

## Woman Hurt In Stove Fire

Mrs. Rena Baker Victim of Explosion of Oil Cooker in Kitchen of Home.

Mrs. Rena Baker of 178 Baxter street was burned about the hands, and damage of about \$900 was done to her home and furniture, in a fire caused by an explosion of a small oil stove yesterday afternoon, according to Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski.

The woman was given first aid by Fireman George Regan. According to a report given to the fire department, Mrs. Baker was in another room when she heard an explosion in her kitchen. Upon investigating, she found a small, two-burner oil cook stove in flames. Mrs. Baker hurriedly picked up the flaming stove, with which she started to run outdoors, in order to prevent a fire in her house, firemen were told.

Sustaining burns to her hands, she dropped the blazing stove to the floor of the back porch, after which she summoned firemen by telephone. Later a box alarm was sounded.

The flames spread rapidly over the porch, eating into a partition into the interior of the house. Window glass was broken by the heat and curtains and furniture also were damaged, the fire chief said. Streams from two small lines of hose were played on the flames. The fire trucks left the station at 2:12 o'clock and returned at 2:58.

The department extinguished a chimney fire at the home of Charles Skuba of 90 Hazel street earlier in the day.

414140

## Sparks From Acetylene Torch Cause Fire at Cohen Garage, Post St.

Sparks from an acetylene torch being used to cut the frames of demolished shed cars ignited the Max Cohen garage on Post street Saturday night at 7:30 o'clock, doing \$100 damage, according to Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski.

The fire had smoldered since earlier in the afternoon, then ignited the lower part of the wall, burning through the partition. When the firemen reached the scene, flames were pouring through a hole that had been burned in the roof.

Belief that the fire had been burning slowly for some time was expressed by neighbors who stated that they had smelled rubber burning in the vicinity for some time before the fire was discovered.

In addition to the walls and roof being damaged by the flames, auto parts stored in the building were rendered useless by water.

Yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock a chimney fire broke out at the home of Charles A. Sanford on South Main street. Firemen extinguished the flames before any damage resulted.

## Girl Risks Life to Save Sister in Fire

Eleanor Thrall, 16, Dashes Through Flames in Home at Center Rutland.

### Kerosene Explosion

James P. Cullinan, 67, Burned Seriously While Pouring Oil Into Wood Stove.

Eleanor Thrall, 16-year-old Mount St. Joseph's academy junior, risked her life yesterday morning when she dashed through a flaming room to rescue her two-month-old baby sister, in a fire caused when kerosene, used by her stepfather, James P. Cullinan, in starting a fire in a heater, exploded, burning him severely and damaging their home and furniture to the extent of \$1000.

Cullinan, 67-year-old automobile salesman, sustained severe burns to his hands, wrists and face, and his hair was singed.

So violent was the explosion, that a three-gallon can from which Cullinan was pouring the inflammable fluid into the stove, was blown to pieces in his hands, and the door of the stove hurled across the room. As Cullinan ran from the house screaming, his clothing afire, Eleanor quickly seized a blanket which she wrapped about him.

Mrs. Cullinan, clad in nightclothing, ran to his assistance, and with the help of her daughter, Eleanor, rolled the man in the snow, snuffing out the fire in his clothing.

While efforts were being made to assist Cullinan, another member of the family, Beverly, 12, rushed to the bedroom adjoining the blazing living room, and snatched up her three-year-old sister, Theresa Ann, from her crib. She shouted to Eleanor to save the two-month-old baby, Rose Jean, sleeping in the same room.

Without stopping to realize the danger of her act, the older girl darted through the flames into the living room and the bedroom beyond. The small children were taken from the house by way of the kitchen, which was not touched by the fire.

Mrs. Cullinan, her husband and children went to the home of a neighbor, Miss Frances Hulihan, owner of the burned building, who lives next door. The Rutland Fire department was called, and relatives were summoned who rushed the injured man to the Rutland hospital, where he was treated by Dr. A. H. Bellesore, Jr.

The physician stated last night that Cullinan had sustained first degree burns about the face, and second degree burns to his hands and wrists. After being treated at the hospital, Cullinan was taken to the home of a friend, Morris Snyder of Grove street.

The Rutland Fire department was called at 7:50 o'clock. Because of the sessions of the state firemen instructors' school being held in the city this week, members of departments from Burlington, Bennington, Barre, Hardwick, Bethel and other towns responded with the local firemen.

As the Cullinan home is located just two houses beyond the city line in Center Rutland, the nearest hydrant at the corner of Ripley and West street was 2000 feet away. For this reason the firemen used three booster lines, pumping water from a supply in the truck, to extinguish the blaze.

From the vicinity of the heater where the explosion occurred, the flames had spread over an overstuffed divan, and then extended to the ceiling, eating through a partition in the upper part of the building where it was checked by the firemen. Several items of furniture, including a piano were destroyed by the flames, and the walls of the adjoining bedroom where the two small children had been sleeping were burned and blistered by the intense heat.

From the ruins of the furniture, George O. Mansfield of Boston, chief fire inspector for the Massachusetts State Police, who was in Rutland to lecture at the firemen's school, picked up the remnants of the kerosene can, rent to three pieces in the blast. According to Fire Chief Koltonski, Cullinan had started a fire earlier in the stove, and it had died down. In a second attempt he poured the kerosene into the stove. As the inflammable fluid came in contact with the hot metal, Koltonski said, the kerosene vaporized and exploded. The fire chief commended the presence of mind of the 16-year-old girl in throwing a blanket over her stepfather's burning clothing.

By an arrangement between the town and city of Rutland, members of the Rutland Fire department may answer summons to a fire in the town of Rutland without first waiting for authorization by the town selectmen.

Eleanor and Beverly Thrall are daughters of Mrs. Cullinan by a previous marriage. Their brother, Raymond, 14-year-old Rutland High school student, is ill at the Rutland hospital with rheumatic fever.

Mrs. Cullinan's brother-in-law, Franklyn Daniels, was killed in a dynamite explosion a few weeks ago at Danby.

Cullinan, who is 67 years old, is employed as automobile salesman for the Badlam Motor company of this city.

417141

## Fire Damages Barn At Crescent Place

Flames, fanned by a scudding wind, swept from a rubbish fire through the attic of a barn on Crescent place yesterday afternoon, causing damage estimated at \$200. The small wooden one-story building is owned by the Charles E. Novak estate.

Flames and smoke were shooting from the cupola of the barn when firemen arrived about 1:40 o'clock. Quickly rigging up a hydrant and two booster lines, the men confined the wind-whipped flames to the roof and upper part of the building. The roof was perforated, one hole being roughly 8 feet across before the blaze was checked.

Capt. Frank H. Seward said that smoldering rubbish was the origin of the barn fire. Grass fires were reported yesterday afternoon about 5:30 o'clock on East Washington street and on Killington avenue.

412140

## Fire Damages Cioffi Home on Granger St.

Fire, which broke out yesterday morning at the home of F. J. Cioffi of 72 Granger street, burned a large amount of clothing and did a small amount of damage to the roof of the house.

Firemen, answering a general alarm, quickly extinguished the blaze, but not before it had burned through the roof of the house and destroyed the contents and door of the closet.

A booster line was used to put out the flames.

It was the first alarm in 10 days.

1272140

PARTITION FIRE DAMAGES STRATTON ROAD HOME.

Speedy arrival of Rutland firemen at the home of William R. McDonald of Stratton road at 10 o'clock yesterday morning confined damage from a partition fire to a minimum. The blaze broke out in the ceiling of the first floor at a point where a stove-pipe went through to the chimney of the house on the second floor. Firemen, using a booster line, quenched the flames before they could spread.

1118140

## Fire in Home Of O. Thomas

Chimney Blaze Spreads to Roof of Dwelling on Pittsford Road.

A fire that started yesterday morning in a chimney of a farmhouse owned by Orin A. Thomas of Rutland town spread rapidly into the attic and caused damage that is estimated at \$500. The house, a large two-story building, is located south of, and adjacent to the large Thomas dairy farm, and is occupied by his son, Orin Thomas, Jr., David McDougall and Oliver Terrier.

The Rutland firemen were called at 9:24 o'clock, and at the time they arrived, flames could be seen shooting from two side walls of the building. The exact nature of the origin of the blaze was uncertain, but Capt. Frank H. Seward said he thought that a crack in the brick wall of the chimney allowed heat to permeate a partition between two rooms of the house.

From a point at the juncture of the first floor ceiling and a second-story inside partition the fire traveled swiftly to the attic. Going underneath the floor, where it could not be easily detected, it carried up through two outside walls and burst into the open when it reached the attic.

The inside wooden structure of the attic was badly charred before the fire was extinguished, but the roof of the house, which is covered with slate, proved impervious to the flames and was damaged only to the extent of a number of slates that were split by the heat.

Firemen used a stream from a booster line to put out the flames; several men kept the tank replenished with water using milk cans to carry it from a watering trough. It was under control by 11 o'clock in the morning.

The three occupants of the house were there when it started and had removed most of the furniture and other valuables from the rooms that were threatened, when firemen arrived on the scene.

519140

## Painters Set Fire to J. Harvey Noe House

Painters burning off excess paint in the home of J. Harvey Noe at 63 Grove street set fire to a wall partition, according to Capt. Frank H. Seward of the fire department. An alarm was telephoned to the firehouse and a "phantom" alarm for Box 46 was rung in from the station.

Seward said that damage in the morning blaze was confined to the partition and part of the second floor of the house. Firemen also answered three other fire calls during the day. Grass fires at Jackson avenue, Harrington avenue and Freeman avenue were extinguished. At Freeman avenue, firemen discovered nine pheasant eggs which had been scorched by the blaze.



## Alan Taussig Home Burns

Blaze, Extinguished by Rutland Firemen, Guts Second Story Interior of Building.

The second story interior of the Mendon home of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Taussig was badly gutted yesterday afternoon by the second fire on the Taussig property in little more than three weeks.

Taussig said he was unable to make immediate estimate of the damage, but admitted that the walls and woodwork were "pretty well ruined." The furniture, however, was damaged only by smoke and water.

The fire started while two Rutland painters were engaged in burning off paint on the exterior of the house. The flames became uncontrollable, and ate through the gables of the building into the second story rooms.

Rutland firemen answered an alarm about 4 o'clock, and brought into play 500 feet of hose and a booster pump to smother the flames.

Taussig, who was playing golf when the fire broke out, said that repair work would start immediately.

The department answered two other calls during the day, one, at 7:40 a. m., for a chimney fire at 138 Strongs avenue and again at 4:30 p. m., when they were called out for a flooded oil burner blaze at 55 West street. No damage resulted, fire officers said.

## Chief Blames Children For Fire Epidemic

Grass fires, the majority of which were set deliberately by children, according to Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, continued to plague the city yesterday.

Beginning at 9:20 o'clock yesterday morning Rutland firemen, without respite, answered calls to 20 grass fires throughout the day—the highest total recorded yet this year. More significant than this is the fact that there have been 98 fires in the last 11 days—easily a record in the history of the fire department.

The situation is becoming serious, according to a statement made by Chief Koltonski last night. He added that several times yesterday alarms were turned in to empty fire stations—all the available equipment was occupied chasing down the persistent grass fires.

The department has received scores of complaints from indignant Rutland citizens who have seen groups of boys touching off grass that has been made tinder-dry by the sunny spring weather. Chief Koltonski said the requests of many Rutlanders who want the fire department to burn grass have necessarily been ignored—simply because the men could not be spared.

The cost involved in fighting the current grass fire epidemic is impressive. Chief Koltonski said that yesterday about 25 gallons of gas were consumed by the fire trucks, and he calculated that including wear and tear to equipment the cost of each sortie from the station amounts to about \$2.

## Fire Damages Chaffee Home On So. Main St.

Fire caused by flying chimney sparks burned a sizable hole in the roof of the South Main street home of Newman K. Chaffee, early Saturday night. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski estimated damage, covered by insurance, at \$100.

Members of the fire department responding to Box 31 alarm at 5:45 o'clock, found flames spurring from the shingled roof of the large frame house at 162 South Main street.

The blaze ate its way into the attic, but was quenched before it had spread into the second story of the building. Firemen used a fire hydrant hose to bring the flames under control.

Chaffee, acting president of the University of Vermont, is president of the Rutland Savings bank. He was not in Rutland when the blaze occurred.

Yesterday firemen extinguished a chimney blaze in the home of John Harris of 265 West street at 2:30 o'clock in the morning, after an unidentified person had rushed over to the City hall fire station to hastily turn in an alarm.

A defective sprinkler system in Burditt Bros. grain storage block on Evelyn street brought department members out at 6:45 o'clock last night.

A rubbish fire in back of the W. E. Grace company store at 128 Merchants Row was smothered by firemen about 3:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon.

## Fire Damages Rudin Creamery In Ctr. Rutland

A dairy creamery in Center Rutland owned by Alfred H. Rudin of Shield place was considerably damaged by a fire that originated in a defective chimney about 9:30 o'clock last night.

Firemen, answering Box 76 alarm, found flames shooting from the roof of the small one-room building when they arrived.

A booster pump line and a line from a fire hydrant were rapidly brought into play and the fire smothered before it had spread to a refrigerator closet that contained about 400 quarts of milk.

The building was unoccupied when the fire broke out.

Aside from damage done by the streams of water used to extinguish the blaze, the creamery equipment installed in the building was unharmed, Deputy Chief Ralph R. Bean said last night.

When questioned Rudin, the owner, declined to make an estimate of the damage. A large section of the ceiling and the roof above the chimney were destroyed.

A sidelight of the fire was the fact that the fire alarm horn which blared forth about 9:30 o'clock was heard in Brandon, the sound carried by the wind.

A large crowd gathered in Center Rutland to witness the blaze, and traffic was momentarily slowed on West street near Shedd place.

## Loss \$500,000 As Flames Wipe Out Burlington Hotel

Many of Guests in Hotel Milner, Formerly the Sherwood, Narrowly Escape Death in Raging Fire.

## Walls Stand

Engineers Discuss Ways of Pulling Walls Down as National Guardsmen Patrol Danger Area.

(Special to The Herald.)  
BURLINGTON, Feb. 14.—The most disastrous fire Burlington has known in many years destroyed the Milner hotel, formerly the Sherwood, at the corner of Church and Cherry streets early this morning with a loss of \$500,000 to the hotel block and surrounding property.

Tonight the seven-story walls of the structure loom as a menace to public safety and are under the eye of National Guardsmen who are standing by the fire lines and routing traffic in a large closed area. Engineers are discussing the best way to pull down the menacing walls. The hotel was erected about 30 years ago by Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Murphy and its most recent owner is George E. Milne of Barre. The fire routed 160 guests in sub-zero weather.

All the guests miraculously escaped the inferno, most of them fleeing in hastily-snatched clothing by stairways and elevator. Seventeen, trapped by the smoke and flames in the west end of the building where the fire is thought to have started from some undetermined cause, reached safety down firemen's ladders extended to the third and fourth floors.

The only known casualty was Harris Sklar, Revere, Mass., salesman, whose foot was burned when he stepped on live embers in leaving his third floor room.

Escapes from more serious injury and possible death in the most disastrous fire since the old Y. M. C. A. building at College and Church streets burned with a \$500,000 loss February 1, 1928 were spectacular.

A ladder reached David Silver, Brookline, Mass., clothing salesman, just in time as he clung with his finger tips to the sill of his fourth floor room, which was enveloped in flames. Three other men had similar narrow calls as firemen barely beat the flames to them. One man was taken out of a sixth floor window by the hook and ladder crew on the

(Continued on Page 3 with Pictures.)

## Five Rutland Firemen Rush To Burlington

Chief Koltonski and Four Men Called to Help at Queen City.

## Take Supply of Hose

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, accompanied by four members of the Rutland Fire department left this city last night at 5:45 o'clock for Burlington, in response to a call for help sent out by Fire Commissioner C. Smith of Burlington.

The local firefighters were called upon by the Burlington commissioner to give relief to the exhausted members of the Burlington fire department, in the event flames should break out afresh in the ruins of the \$500,000 fire which destroyed the Milner hotel, formerly known as the Hotel Sherwood, and damaged the adjoining block housing the J. C. Penney store. The commissioner also cited the need of fresh men and equipment in case other fires broke out in the city during the night.

The Rutland men remained overnight and are expected to return today.

Chief Koltonski and Firemen Jack Seward, Percy Wood and George Regan and Call Fireman Joyce Hurley, left Rutland in the Rutland fire department service car, a few minutes after receiving Commissioner Smith's telephone call. The Rutland firefighters were equipped with 1000 feet of hose, also requested by the Burlington commissioner.



## Lumber Yard Fire Burns Four Hours

Blaze at A. B. Congdon  
Plant Gives Firemen Hard  
Battle; Cause Unknown.

One Man Is Overcome

Firemen late last night were holding a grim vigil over the remains of a fire of unknown origin which broke out yesterday afternoon in the yard of the A. B. Congdon Lumber company on the Cold River road and resisted all efforts to quell it for nearly four hours. The blaze proved one of the most stubborn fought by local firemen in recent months because the high piles of lumber had to be dismantled piece by piece before water could be brought to the seat of the flames.

The fire destroyed large quantities of lumber and other material but the buildings escaped. No estimate of the damage was obtainable last night.

At a late hour firemen stood guard as rolls of already useless tarpaper burned with dense clouds of smoke. After quenching the flames which destroyed large piles of shingles, lumber and hardwood flooring firemen were able to keep the flames from leaping to nearby lumber piles.

Since the tarpaper would have to be dug over bit by bit to extinguish the flames it was thought best to let the heap burn itself to ashes.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and Deputy Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean, who earlier had made a futile effort to revive an electrocuted man in East Wallingford, arrived at the scene shortly after the alarm and directed the efforts of a score of regular firemen, call firemen and volunteers.

Smoke and steam from the blazing lumber repeatedly enveloped the firemen as they fought to control the blaze. Thomas Lynch, a member of the fire department, was momentarily overcome by smoke and was treated at the scene by Dr. Bradford C. Powers. Lynch was later sent to his home. Dr. Powers remained on the scene during the height of the blaze and treated a half dozen firemen for minor cuts and burns.

While struggling to hold a hose against the pressure of the water, Fireman Martin F. Kelly was thrown from a lumber pile, bruising his shoulder as he struck the ground.

A lumber company truck was destroyed by the flames. Other lumber trucks parked about the yard were driven to the safety of a nearby lot. A home owned by Perley Safford, situated to the east of

the lumber yard as well as the office building of the lumber company, were threatened by flying embers until firemen brought the blaze under control.

Firemen were aided by the fact that the wind kept northwest during the blaze, thus carrying the embers away from the main part of the plant. The blaze was confined to a section about 100 yards long bordering the southeast side of the lumber yard.

Two hose lines were employed by firemen. One was run from a hydrant north of the yard while a second was laid to Mussey brook. A barrel, recently submerged in the brook bed to provide a basin from which to pump water, proved effective. Smaller hose lines were connected with the two main lines, at the site of the blaze, so that firemen could keep streams of water playing along the entire length of the flaming lumber piles.

High clouds of billowing blue smoke attracted throngs of spectators to the blaze. Members of the Rutland police department were stationed at side streets, leading from South Main street east to the fire, so that motorists could not hamper firemen by jamming roads in the vicinity.

The fact that the fire occurred on Sunday afternoon brought such a number of persons to the area that at times nearly a hundred cars were parked along South Main street.

The Rutland fire department was called out for four times, in addition to the lumber company fire call over the week-end. A call shortly after 7 o'clock yesterday morning took the men to 25½ Center street where water from an undetermined source had found its way into the top floor. No serious damage was done, however.

There were three calls Saturday, the first at 3:50 p. m., when a grass fire seriously threatened lumber piles at Manning's Lumber company plant. A second alarm, summoning the men to 47 Water street, was to a paint shop at the rear of a home at that address. The blaze completely destroyed the small shed. Lightning struck the house at 60 Church street Saturday at 8:40 p. m., but no damage was done, firemen said.

JANUARY 22, 1941

## Fire Levels Pitts House

Gates Street Home Destroyed  
by Flames Started by Over-  
heated Stove.

A fire that started in the chimney from an over-heated stove last night in the home of John Pitts of Gates street spread rapidly through the building and gutted the whole structure.

The owner, and his son, Samuel Pitts, were able to salvage only a few personal belongings before raging flames, shooting skyward, destroyed the building. Firemen, called at 8:40 o'clock, found the blaze hopelessly out of control, but their quick work saved the nearby home of Pitts' son, and a barn.

The destruction of the house, a six-room two-story building, made Pitts, a WPA worker, and his wife, temporarily homeless. They spent the night in the home of Pitts' son.

The house, a total loss, was partially covered by fire insurance.

Pitts was at the next-door home of his son when a neighbor noticed sparks emerging from the roof of the building and ran to the son's house to warn the owner. Members of the family took a trunk, a clock, and a few articles of clothing out of the house before the heat drove them away.

Firemen used a stream from a booster line to protect surrounding property. The roof and rafters of the Pitts house fell in soon after they arrived.

The blaze was the cause of a minor traffic jam. The towering flames, visible through the southern section of Rutland, attracted a large crowd of spectators. Cars lined both sides of Curtis avenue, near Gates street where the building stood.

## Fire Levels 2d Lumber Mill in Area Working On Government Orders

Flames, Visible for Miles Around, Attract Hundreds to  
Cold River Road as Fire of Undetermined Origin  
Causes Heavy Damage to Congdon Plant; Firemen  
Control Blaze Within Hour.

Fire, which illuminated the sky for miles around and brought hundreds of curious spectators to the scene, caused thousands of dollars of damage Saturday night to the Congdon lumber mill on the Cold River road.

So dense was the traffic after the blaze was discovered that several policemen and motor vehicle officers were dispatched to the area, and motorists had difficulty in finding a parking space for their cars within a half mile radius.

It was the second fire to cause destruction to a lumber mill in the vicinity of Rutland in nine days, and co-incidentally both concerns were working on government orders at the time of the conflagrations. On May 1 the White River Bobbin company in Mendon was razed by flames, resulting in damage estimated at \$100,000.

Aaron Congdon, operator of the Congdon mill, last night said that although no official estimate of damage had been made, he anticipated that the loss would amount to approximately \$11,000. A previous fire occurred at the Congdon mill in July 1941 resulting in damage of \$13,000, Congdon confirmed.

Four pieces of fire fighting equipment, eight regular members of the fire department, 10 call men and 20 auxiliary firemen responded to the alarms, which was sent both by telephone and box signals. Although the fire was located outside of the city limits, a standing agreement between the Congdon concern and the city of Rutland, guaranteeing

expenses, facilitated immediate response. The alarm was sounded at 10:10 o'clock and the blaze was under control in less than an hour. The department left the scene shortly before 4 o'clock Sunday morning, leaving a line of hose and a watchman on the scene. The final sparks were extinguished in a sawdust pile yesterday afternoon.

The fire was confined mostly to the sawmill and woodworking plant, Congdon explained. He stated that a large quantity of lumber burned, the mill building being entirely leveled. Also destroyed was the Deisel engine which furnished power for the mill, and several barrels of fuel oil.

A serious hazard to the lives of firemen and spectators was caused when flames approached a 1000-gallon oil storage tank. Due to quick work by the fire fighters the tank did not explode or burst. A woman, who had warmed her way through the fire lines to get a "better look" at activities, became hysterical when she was unsuccessful in efforts to climb a high fence when she was informed of the danger.

Two lines of hose were laid to bring water to the scene. Four engines were used to pump water from the brook near the Eddy Lee company plant, from which 2400 feet of hose were laid. The line ran under the railroad track in its course from the brook to the mill, a distance of a quarter of a mile. A total of 1600 feet of hose was laid from the hydrant at the corner of Curtis avenue and Horton street.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said yesterday that the cause of the fire could not be determined. It was understood, however, that Sheriff Roy H. Leonard would be asked to conduct an investigation.

State Fire Marshal Francis Regan of Montpelier was in Rutland yesterday, but it could not be ascertained whether he was here in connection with the lumber mill blaze.

Asked yesterday whether he intended to rebuild the sawmill, Congdon said, "I certainly do!"

Firemen yesterday pointed to the fact that a southwest wind and dry weather combined with the lumber mill fire might have proved much more dangerous to nearby buildings in addition to throwing sparks over the city.

A large quantity of sawdust, waste slabs and edgings in the area of the sawmill also became ignited, adding to the duration of the fire.

JUNE 7, 1941

## Fire Damages Storehouse

Loss in Pico Produce Blaze Estimated at \$1500; Howe Scale  
Has Slight Fire.

Fire breaking out in the rear of the building housing the Pico Produce company at 144 Granger street, yesterday afternoon, did damage estimated by Chief Alfred H. Koltonski at \$1500 before firemen were able to subdue it.

The apparatus responded to the alarm at 2:40 o'clock, and it was not until an hour later that the release was sounded. Firemen found difficulty in attacking the blaze because of the dense smoke pouring forth.

Investigation of the cause of the fire had not been completed last night, and Chief Koltonski declined to suggest a possible cause.

A second alarm, and the one which prevented an immediate investigation of the produce company fire, was sounded at the Howe Scale company foundry at 4:55 o'clock, where several inches of oil in a pan under a machine burst into flames. Capt. Frank H. Seward said that although the fire was difficult to reach, it was extinguished with only minor damage.

A call to Cottage street where rubbish was reported burning at 6:16 o'clock, proved needless.



# Two Men Burned, One Fatally, In Ctr. Rutland Fire

Lawrence Messier, 27, Burlington, Dies in Hospital;  
Wayne Devereaux, Fair Haven, in Bad Condition.

## Blazing Gas

Firemen Work for an Hour  
to Keep Flames From 12-  
000-Gallon Storage Tank;  
Traffic Halted Half Hour.

Lawrence Messier, 27, of Burlington, a truck driver for the Northern Oil company, Inc., died at 1:20 o'clock yesterday morning at Rutland hospital of burns sustained Saturday morning about 11:15 when gasoline caught fire while it was being transferred from one truck to another outside of the oil company's station at Center Rutland.

Wayne Devereaux, 27, of Fair Haven, driver for the Davis Transportation company of Rutland, is in Rutland hospital under treatment for severe burns sustained in the same fire which destroyed one truck, damaged another and consumed approximately 500 gallons of gasoline.

Firemen from Rutland and West Rutland fought the fire for an hour, protecting adjoining property and preventing the flames from reaching a 12,000-gallon storage tank, partly filled with gasoline.

The clouds of black smoke and flames which billowed upward attracted wide attention and hundreds of motorists went to the scene. Traffic on the Gateway road, where the oil company station is located, was interrupted for half an hour.

Motor Vehicle Inspectors Ray C. Smith and Harold S. Potter warned motorists not to drive past the scene of the fire lest the gasoline in the storage tank, which is partly buried in the ground, or the truck tanks explode.

The heat became so intense that leaves on shrubbery at the home of John Plizgo, 150 feet east of the scene of the blaze, were shriveled by it.

Plizgo and his family moved some of their furniture out of their home and left it for a time.

Several loud reports which were heard by bystanders gave rise to rumors that receptacles of gasoline had exploded but it was explained later that these noises were due to superheated fires on the trucks blowing up.

No one was injured except the two truck drivers.

Just before the fire flared up a Davis Transportation company tank truck, carrying about 3000 gallons of gasoline and in charge of Devereaux, had driven up to the Northern Oil company plant and had come to a stop between a Northern Oil company truck and the big storage tank beside which was a pump which is a part of the station equipment.

The trucks were parked a few

feet east of the station building, a stucco structure, which sustained no damage from the fire except that a few panes of glass were cracked or broken.

The pump had been started and gasoline was being transferred from the Davis truck into the Northern company truck, according to R. L. Davis, owner of the transportation company, when there was a sudden flare up and flames soon shot high in the air.

Messier and Devereaux, who are believed to have been standing near the trucks, were immediately enveloped in flames. With their clothing ablaze, they ran from the scene in opposite directions. Devereaux was soon discovered by Steve Czchor, who lives on the West Proctor road, a few hundred feet north of the gasoline station. Czchor rushed him to the hospital where Dr. Francis E. Quigley attended him.

Messier rushed out into the Gateway road. Bystanders smothered the flames in his clothing and he was taken to the hospital where Dr. F. J. Smolinski gave him first aid. Dr. Edward E. Hinds later attending him.

Messier was badly burned over nearly his entire body and his recovery from the fire was doubtful.

Devereaux's burns, of second degree character, are confined largely to his legs, hands and face. It is believed that he will recover unless infection sets in.

Both the Rutland and West Rutland fire departments reached the scene early. Stringing two lines of hose, each 1000 feet in length, the

Rutland department pumped water from the Clarendon Springs stream, parking the two pumpers near the highway bridge, some distance to the east.

"Fog" nozzles, which emit water in a fine spray, were used on both hoses, this type of nozzle being especially useful in fighting gasoline fires. Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said. By means of these streams and two others pumped by the West Rutland fire department from a point in the brook nearer the fire, the firemen were able to smother the gasoline blaze and keep the big storage tank sufficiently cool so that the gasoline stored in it did not catch fire. The quantity stored in the tank at the time could not be ascertained last night.

The gasoline that was in the tanks of the Davis truck did not catch fire nor did the few hundred gallons that had been transferred to the tank of the Northern Oil company vehicle although the latter truck was reduced to a mass of twisted metal, except for the tank, itself, which was blackened and bent but still held oil.

The damage to the Davis truck consisted principally in loss of the tires and it was driven away on its own power, the owner said.

The body of Messier was taken to his home yesterday by an undertaker from Newport, that city formerly having been his home. Messier is survived by his wife and two small children. Devereaux also has a wife, having been married only a few months.

# RR Storage Shed Guttled

Fire of Undetermined Origin  
Destroys 50-Foot-Long Building.

Oil and creosote-fueled flames gutted an iron and lumber storage shed in the yards of the Rutland railroad yesterday afternoon, providing one of the most spectacular fires in this city in recent years. The fire, of undetermined origin, was discovered by a railroad employe about 4 o'clock, and firemen worked for nearly an hour and a half before it was finally extinguished.

The building was a total loss, but estimates of the damage wrought could not be obtained from either railroad officials or fire department officers last night.

The presence of a large storage tank for acetylene gas and a pipe line running close to the side of the burning building caused the firemen moments of anxious worry, but a strong south wind aided in keeping flames from reaching this danger spot.

A half dozen empty freight cars standing on the track beside the building were badly scorched before firemen arrived.

The fire broke out suddenly that it was impossible to do more than hold it to the one shed, and several of the 10 fire hoses in the yard were played on lumber piles and the freight cars in the vicinity.

While the blaze was at its height, other members of the department were fighting a fire in Center Rutland, where a barn full of lumber burned for nearly five hours.

Heavy clouds of dense black smoke billowed over the downtown area, attracting hundreds to a fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski termed the "worst since the Grand fire" of last year, when the Grand theater on Wales street was gutted. All roads leading to the city were jammed by automobiles and school children and late afternoon shoppers scurried to the scene. Fire lines were established by police officers under Chief William P. Fox, but many workers and others were in the midst of the firemen.

In investigation of the cause of the fire was planned for this morning by Chief Koltonski and officials of the railroad.

Twenty-six men from the fire department joined with men from the railroad shops and the Patch-Wegner company's foundry in their endeavor to quell the blaze. Four of the 10 fire hoses were used by the firemen, four by the railroad workers and two more were played on the flames from the foundry roof.

In Center Rutland, a barn owned by Axel and Ernest Olson of 55 Barrett street burned for several hours, starting at 2 o'clock, as lumber taken from a torn-down house and stored inside smoldered despite efforts of firemen. The one engine from Rutland aiding Rutland town firefighters did not return to its station until 7:30 last night. No estimate of the damage was available.

OCTOBER 11, 1940

# Roy L. Pratt Home Damaged By Flames

A fire broke out at 7 o'clock yesterday morning in the home of Roy L. Pratt of 79 School street. No one was in the house when the blaze started as Pratt, who lives alone, had gone to work. He is employed as a cook at Moran's cafe. Neighbors turned in the alarm and telephoned the Rutland fire department.

Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said that the fire started in Pratt's bedroom and flames swept up through the ceiling and into the attic. Firemen used both a booster line and a hydrant stream to extinguish the blaze, which was under control in an hour. Chief Koltonski estimated that more than \$300 damage had been done.



## Ten Children Escape Fire

Flames Do Damage at Two-Family Flat Over Goodspeed Store on South Main St.

Ten children, belonging to two families, were carried to safety late last night when their flat, above R. W. Goodspeed's grocery store at South Main and Cold River road, caught fire from an overheated chimney. The flat was occupied by the families of Walter Brown and Roy Dawson. The children range in age between 10 years and eight months.

The fire was discovered by Mrs. Walter Brown about 11 o'clock, she said, and burned for about 20 minutes before it was extinguished by the Rutland Fire department. It was confined to a rear room of the apartment, burning through the floor of the apartment and the ceiling of the store below in the vicinity of the chimney.

Mrs. Brown, mother of six children, rushed to the nearby Motor Vehicles headquarters when she discovered the fire, and Chief Inspector Ray C. Smith, with Inspector Neil Ward, responded after notifying firemen.

Smith and Ward carried several of the children from the second floor apartment before firemen arrived.

R. W. Goodspeed estimated probable damages at \$150 last night. The two families were in bed or preparing for bed when the fire broke out.

The Brown children are John, Richard, Rosemary, Charlotte, Andrew and Margaret Ann. Children of Mr. and Mrs. Dawson are Eli, Mary, Emily, Robert and Josephine. One of the Dawson children was not at home at the time.

JANUARY 13, 1941

## Damage of \$1000 Done By Fire in Post Street Home Set By Hot Ashes

Damage estimated at \$1000 resulted from a fire at 129 Post street at 5.50 o'clock Saturday morning caused, fire department officials reported, when hot ashes were placed in a wooden container in a back room of the house which is owned by Luigi Ferraro.

The fire had eaten its way through a floor and was spreading to the attic roof when firemen arrived in response to a box alarm. The ash container had been placed in a room on the second floor, firemen reported.

Personal property of Edward Doty on the second floor and of Ray Perron on the first floor was damaged in the blaze.

Firemen also responded to three chimney fires over the week-end, the first at 7:45 o'clock Saturday morning at 34 Meadow street, the second at 12:28 o'clock Saturday night at 77 Harrison avenue and the third at 1:55 o'clock Sunday morning at 241 South Main street.

A flooded oil burner was the reason for a call to 136 Lincoln avenue at 9:05 o'clock Saturday night. No damage was reported.



Herald Photos.

Hundreds of gallons of gasoline are shown above roaring skyward in the fire that cost the life of one man and seriously burned another in Center Rutland Saturday. The two trucks burned in the fire, one of which was totally destroyed, are shown enveloped in flames in top photo. Wrecks of two trucks burned in previous fires are in the lower left foreground. Firemen struggling to keep a partly-filled, 12,000-gallon storage tank from exploding are shown in lower photos. Heat from the blazing gasoline was so intense that it threatened to expand and burst the tank for almost an hour, until the combined efforts of the Rutland and West Rutland fire departments brought the flames under control.



## City Council, by 7 to 2 Vote, Removes Fireman G. R. Hall

### Dismissal From Department Follows Finding of Guilty on Two Charges by Mayor Temple.

By a vote of seven to two, the Rutland city council last night voted that Gordon R. Hall of Harrington avenue be removed from the Rutland Fire department, after a hearing in which the mayor and the eight aldermen present found him guilty of two charges of violating department regulations.

There was separate voting on each of the three charges brought by Mayor Temple upon receipt of a complaint from Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and Frank H. Seward, second assistant chief.

By a unanimous vote the councilmen present found Hall guilty of the first charge of being in an intoxicated condition while on duty on December 25, 1943.

By a vote of eight yes to one no, the council found Hall guilty of the second charge of leaving the fire station without permission, while he was supposed to have been on duty.

On the third charge, that of bringing intoxicating liquor into the fire station, the councilmen returned a verdict of not guilty by a vote of five to four.

The final vote, on the question of dismissal, was seven to two.

Hall, a member of the department for 14 years, had admitted drinking while on duty and leaving the station while he was supposed to be on duty, but maintained that he was the senior member of the department on the job at the time and was

When the trucks were called about 1:30 o'clock to the intersection of Church and North streets Hall responded without coat or hat and stayed on the truck surrounded by youngsters, without assuming his duties as senior member. It was stated in testimony. Later he was ordered to remain in the station while the equipment responded to a call from Madison street and had difficulty in understanding telephone messages. Chief Seward ordered him to leave the station at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon and some of the firemen stated that Hall was staggering at that time.

Hall stated that he appeared at the station the next day and was told by the department chief that he was through as far as Koltonski was concerned. Koltonski denied that he had later tried to withdraw the charges, upon questioning by Clayton H. Kinney, who was present as Hall's attorney.

In presenting a plea in Hall's case, Kinney stated that the accused fireman had admitted the charge of misconduct as far as drinking on duty was concerned, that he had been sufficiently punished, that it would not happen again, that he wished to be re-instated and that he felt he was entitled to pay beyond a suspension period of two weeks.

Mayor Wayne N. Temple presided at last night's hearing, the first under the provisions of the newly-revised city charter. Aldermen Hermon K. Sherburne, Jr., John A. M. Hinsman, Harry M. Johnson, J. Fred Carbine, Harry E. Rice, Edward G.

McClallen, Jr., Esme A. C. Smith and William H. Foley were present. Henry P. Battles acted as clerk, and a stenographer was present to record the proceedings.

Absent were Aldermen William T. Simonds, James J. Donnelly and Hollis L. Loveland.

Under the charter the city council has power, by affirmative vote of seven, to suspend or dismiss a member of the fire department.

JANUARY 1944

privileged to do so. His right to leave without permission was denied by Chief Koltonski and Deputy Chief Seward, who claimed that permission of Capt. Percy E. Wood at Station 2 should have been obtained. Testimony also showed that Chief Koltonski had left the station at 10:30 o'clock on the morning of Christmas Day, and that Deputy Chief Seward, who was to have had the day off, was called in because the department was short-handed on that day. Fred Savage, Hall's senior in service, had gone to dinner when Hall left the station, according to the accused man's admission.

Called upon to testify in support of the charges by City Attorney Milford K. Smith in addition to Chief Koltonski and Deputy Chief Seward were Firemen George F. Regan, Fred Savage, Robert Picucci, Frank Flory and Robert Gauthier.

The testimony as related indicated that Hall had reported for work on the morning of December 25 after having had the previous day off, and that his condition was "all right" at that time. Later in the day, he showed signs of drinking. One member of the department stated that Hall, seated at a table in the kitchen of the station, had before him a pint whiskey bottle. Around noon he left the station.

## Six Persons Including A Baby Endangered By Mysterious Fire

Fire which started in a mysterious manner from two fuel oil barrels, which, the owner, Samuel Ezzo, said were empty, caused damage estimated at \$500 to \$600 last night to a two-family frame house at 77 Harrison avenue and menaced the lives of six persons, including four small children, one a babe in arms.

The children and their mothers, Mrs. Bernard Vondette of West Rutland and Mrs. Ezzo, were in a room on the main floor of the dwelling, barely 20 feet from the rear piazza where the barrels were located, when flames suddenly shot into the air, eating their way rapidly through the petitions above to the roof.

Firemen from the central station who answered a telephone call, before an alarm was sent in from box 17, Baxter street and Library avenue, to summon the uptown company, call men and the auxiliary firemen, stated that flames were surging through the roof when they reached the scene.

Meanwhile Mrs. Vondette and Mrs. Ezzo had rushed their children, two in each family, to safety in a parked automobile standing some distance away. Ezzo and Vondette were in a room on the second story, the latter examining the vacant apartment with the possibility of renting it, when they heard some persons shout "Fire" and immediately saw the reflection of flames through a window.

Firemen poured water into the rear of the building for 20 minutes before the flames were extinguished. So intense was the heat that paint was blistered and newly-applied varnish became soft in rooms at the front of the house, well removed from the seat of the fire.

Firemen, assisted by bystanders, moved all furniture from the dining room and living room of the lower apartment and covered furniture of a bedroom with tarpaulins, thus preventing damage.

Ezzo, a mechanic, stated that he purchased the house from the Marble Savings bank less than two weeks ago and had spent his evenings of late papering the walls and touching up the paint of the interior. He had moved in only a portion of his furniture. He had not yet taken out any insurance on the house but it is believed that the bank had coverage.

Ezzo said that he had no idea how the fire started. He insisted that the oil barrels were empty. He had lighted an oil burner in a living room stove for purposes of warmth some time before.

Ezzo and Vondette had barely left the lower floor and gone upstairs to look over the room when the fire broke out. Mrs. Ezzo, Mrs. Vondette and their children, one of Mrs. Ezzo's an infant, were waiting below when the rear piazza, visible through a window from where the women stood, suddenly was illuminated by fire.

Bystanders said that there was a slight explosion a few seconds after the fire was first seen which seemed to increase the intensity of the flames. This, firemen believe, may have been caused by oil fumes in one of the barrels becoming ignited.

Fire department heads were conducting an investigation last night

into the cause of the fire. Chief Alfred H. Koltonski stated that his men found a five-gallon can, partly filled with kerosene on the piazza where the barrels were located.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1942.

## Fire Caused by Torch Damages Altobell Home

Fire which started while a painter's torch was being used on the exterior of the building, caused loss estimated at between \$300 and \$400 to the home of Anthony Altobell, 34 Meadow street, shortly after 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. An alarm was sounded from box 54 and firemen who responded to the summons used a small-diameter hose to extinguish the flames.

Chief Alfred H. Koltonski stated that the fire, apparently started by the torch which was being used to burn off paint, crept upward through partitions into the attic of the house, where some damage was done to beams. There also was loss from smoke which poured out of the garret, attracting the attention of passersby.

The firemen were at the scene for nearly a half hour.

## Tries To Mail Letters, Calls Out Firemen

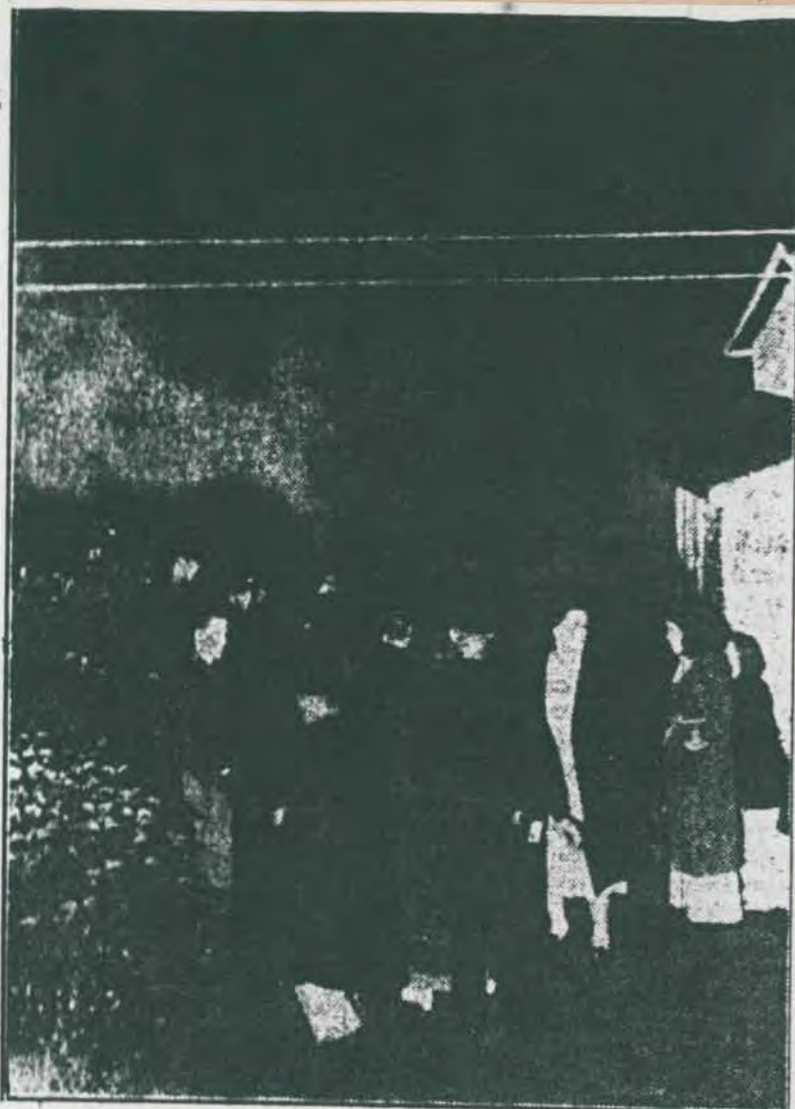
As if the firemen hadn't had enough excitement yesterday in quenching a large blaze on Center street, an elderly gentleman, slightly befuddled, attempted to post a letter in fire box 46 at State and Grove streets in the morning and rang an alarm that called out three engines from the central fire station.

J. Harvey Noe of Grove street, an eyewitness to the incident, noticed the man fumbling with the fire box with one hand while his other hand held several letters. Almost at the same instant the fire alarm rang out over the city.

Questioning the aged man, Noe reported that he said he was trying to post his letters. Noe pointed out the rather grave error the man was making and the elderly resident, hearing the din of the approaching engines, promptly left the scene with considerable alacrity.

As the fire engines crowded into the intersection of State and Grove streets, with no blazing building in sight, Noe explained the situation to the firemen. Aid in clearing up the wild goose chase was also given by Fireman Thomas G. Ross, who happened to be driving past when the aged man was attempting to mail his letters, and had stopped to answer the non-existent alarm.





Herald Photo.

Coats are hastily thrown over night clothes and within a few minutes the calm of a neighborhood asleep is replaced by the excitement caused by scores of curious spectators at a fire at midnight. Photo shows the scene early yesterday morning as flames destroyed a small playhouse at 114 South Main street and threatened an adjoining garage until extinguished by the fire department.

MARCH 1, 1941

## Fire Damages Greeno Home On Stratton Rd.

Fire, which damaged a house occupied by Harold P. Greeno at 72 Stratton road, threatened to reach serious proportions before it was extinguished by Rutland firemen yesterday afternoon.

Starting at 1:44 o'clock, according to Deputy Chief Ralph R. Bean the blaze was caused by careless use of matches or by careless smoking.

It broke out in a small closet located in a second-story bedroom and after fanning out through the room spread into the attic.

Bean said that one wall and a door leading into the bedroom were charred by the flames, while several articles of clothing and bed linen were damaged.

Members of the department used streams of water from two booster lines to extinguish the blaze.

A chimney fire broke out in the home of Harley L. Ormsby of 19 Pine street yesterday noon. The blaze resulted in no damage as firemen made quick work of it with the aid of a garden hose.

A needless alarm was turned in by occupants of an apartment building on Williams street yesterday morning at 11:55 o'clock.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 27, 1941.

## Open Probe Into Fire

Vacant Building on Wales St. Damaged by Blaze, Which Is Called "Incendiary."

Fire, which Chief Alfred H. Koltonski branded as "definitely incendiary in origin," damaged a vacant one and one-half story frame building at 16 Wales street shortly after noon yesterday and last night a two-fold investigation of the blaze was being conducted by city and state officials.

The blaze originated on the ground floor of the building in the vicinity of a stove and had been smoldering for several hours before it was discovered and an alarm sounded. Firemen quickly extinguished the blaze and damage was estimated at \$150 by department officers.

While fire department officials were questioning various residents in the vicinity of the building which is located on the East side of the street, State Detective Almo B. Franzoni of this city opened a separate investigation and it was expected that he would be joined today by Deputy State Fire Marshal Frank Reagan.

Meanwhile State's Attorney Thomas F. Mangan ordered a police guard posted about the building and all but investigating officers were refused admittance.

Although all officials co-operating in the investigation were close-mouthed about the affair, The Herald learned considerable evidence was discovered to back up Koltonski's assertion that the fire was of incendiary origin.

Several small bundles of kerosene-soaked newsprint were found stuffed in cracks in the partitions and a "streamer"—kerosene-soaked rope—leading from several candles also was found.

The building was occupied for some time by a bakery but had been vacant for the past several weeks.

Yesterday morning occupants of several business establishments in the vicinity saw smoke escaping from the building but paid little heed since it was presumed a fire had just been started in a long unused stove.

However, when the smoke grew dense shortly after noon a telephone alarm was sounded and at 12:55 o'clock the siren summoned all available apparatus to the scene due to its proximity to other larger buildings.

The narrow street was choked with fire fighting equipment for nearly half an hour and traffic was diverted.

The building is owned by Raffaele Abatiell of Strong's avenue.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 28, 1942.

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## Lloyd Gabco Electrocuted In RR Yards

Naval Recruiting Officer's Son, 13, Dies Instantly After Fall Into Pit.

Revival Efforts Fail

Youth's Body Found in Pit by Road Employees Shortly After Noon Accident.

Instantaneous death from electrocution struck 13-year-old Lloyd Gabco of Gibson avenue after contact with live wires as the result of what apparently was an accidental fall into the locomotive transfer table pit in the Rutland railroad yards yesterday noon.

There were no known witnesses to the tragedy.

Firemen were called as soon as the plight of the youth was discovered. They worked over the victim an hour with the oxygen resuscitator in a futile effort to restore life, until Dr. T. F. McGarry pronounced the boy dead.

The youth is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gabco of 118 Gibson avenue. The youth's father, who is attached to the local Navy recruiting office, was called to the scene after the boy's identity had been tentatively established by papers in his pocket. The grief-stricken parent confirmed the identification.

The boy's body was found in the pit by Charles Alexander, railroad employee, and Wayne Clark, foreman of the engine house, Eric G. Eklund, superintendent of motive power of the railroad, said last night.

Railroad employees lifted the youth out of the pit and carried on the prone pressure method of resuscitation in the interim before the firemen arrived.

A total of 440 volts from a three-phase circuit are used to operate the electric motor that switches the transfer table up and down the pit.

Gabco's body was found in the narrow space between a rail and the cement edge of the pit and in contact with at least part of the three wires. The damp earth from melting snow is believed to have acted as a ground and facilitated the electrical conduction.

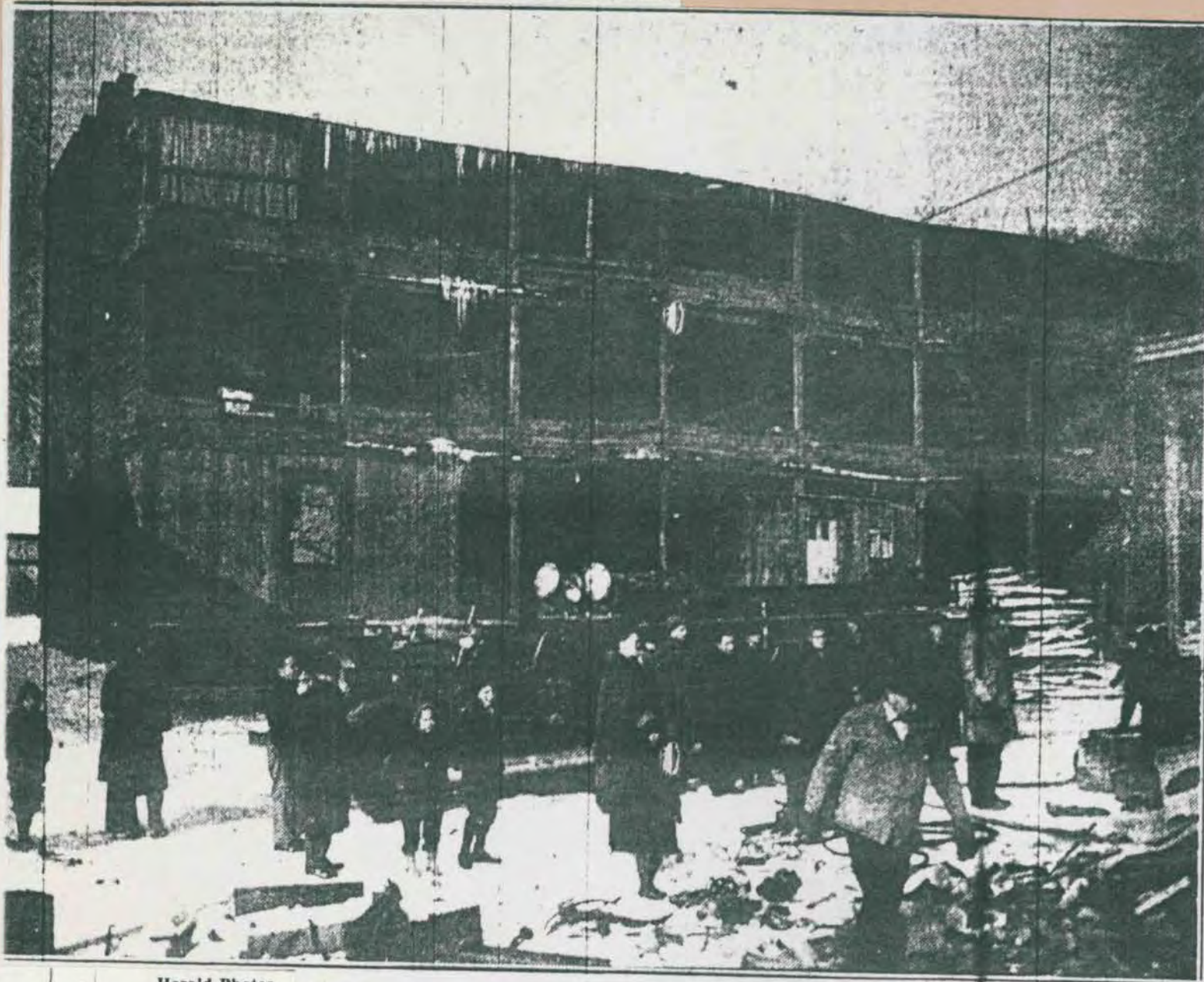
The boy is believed to have been crossing the yards as a short cut. He was a pupil in the eighth grade at St. Peter's school, and belonged to Troop 4 of the Boy Scouts.

Whether other boys were with Gabco at the time, and fled from fright after the accident, was not known.

Dr. McGarry said that there were burns on both hands and one leg. Firemen who operated the resuscitator included Deputy Chief Ralph R. Bean, Capt. James Rice, George F. Regan, Frank J. Flory, Edward I. Earle and John Kent.

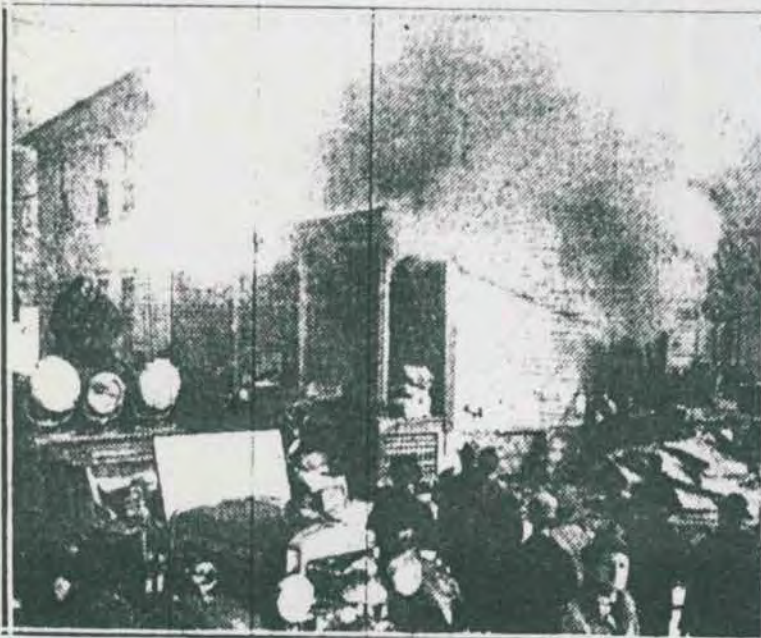
Besides his parents the youth is survived by his brother, Michael, Jr., and two sisters, Loretta and Norrine. The body was taken to New London, Conn., early this morning where funeral services will be held at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Mary Monday morning with burial in the same city.





Herald Photos.

At least seven families with almost 40 persons live in this tenement on Church street at Williams street, owned by Mrs. Bertha M. Chatterton of North street, which stands next to a house where Rutland firemen yesterday morning stopped what might have been a disastrous fire. A fire truck stands in the foreground while smoke and a corner of the burning house may be seen at right. Other photos show the house, with smoke pouring from the cellar where a large quantity of waste paper had been stored. Escaping gas from a pipe that melted through in the basement added to the difficulty in fighting the stubborn blaze. Fireman John Kent is shown helping Firemen George Regan and Edward I. Earle to get their gas masks off as they crawl into the fresh air from the smoke-filled cellar. Burning cinders from a chimney blaze are believed to have started the fire in the waste paper, which was being baled in the basement. Mrs. Chatterton is owner of the two-family house.



### Balmy Weather Brings Rush of Business to Local Fire Fighters

The balmy week-end weather may have given most Rutlanders an opportunity to enjoy spring fever but for the fire department it was just one grass fire after another.

The department put out eight grass or brush fires on Saturday and Sunday and in addition extinguished a blaze in a cupboard and put out a threatening barn fire. Only minor damage was reported in the cupboard fire, which was at 24 East street late yesterday. Saturday night at 10:30 o'clock the fire department was called to put out a rubbish fire beside a barn at 194 Columbian avenue.

Damage was reported to the barn and a truck stored inside before the blaze was quenched. The grass or brush fires Saturday were at Lincoln, Kingsley and Curtis avenues and on Sunday at Lincoln avenue, Park street, Pine hill, State street and Park street again. A chimney fire was put out at 260 West street Saturday.



# Early Morning Blaze Does Big Damage to Restaurant And Store on Center Street

Howe's Coffee Shop, Combination Dry Goods Company Most Seriously Damaged But Smoke Also Seeps Into Drug Store and Apartments; Former Fireman Makes Discovery.

A blaze which started in the basement of Howe's Coffee shop at 21 Center street early yesterday morning threatened to destroy the three-story brick block and endangered other valuable property in the heart of the business center.

The damage, estimated at many thousands of dollars, was sustained principally by the coffee shop and the store of the Combination Dry Goods company, Inc., adjoining it on the west. Smoke, which caused fully as much damage as the fire itself, penetrated into one or two other stores, offices and apartments in the immediate vicinity.

The loss at the coffee shop was estimated at \$3500. Lewis A. Salander, president of the dry goods company, stated that a large stock of goods on the three floors of the store was badly damaged by smoke. He declined to make an estimate of the concern's loss, saying merely that it was very heavy.

The blaze, of undetermined origin, was discovered about 5:13 o'clock by Timothy Driscoll, a former member of the fire department, who smelled smoke as he sat reading a newspaper in his room on the third floor of the building at 21 1/2 Center street. He sent in an alarm from Box 47, Center street and Merchants Row, which called out every place of Rutland's fire fighting apparatus. In spite of the early hour, many people gathered at the scene.

Handicapped by dense clouds of smoke, firemen were obliged to break windows in the front and rear of the building in order to ventilate the rooms occupied by the coffee shop before they could attack the fire with water.

It was determined that the blaze had its inception in a women's coat-room, located in the basement and next to the east wall of the building. Some clothing which had been left in this small room was destroyed and the flames had crept along the unfinished ceiling of the entire basement, burning timbers supporting the flooring above to such an extent that many will have to be replaced.

The fire was of the slow-burning type, firemen stated, and this accounted for the heavy smoke. The basement had become so hot that plumbing fixtures in the area were twisted and warped. Some goods stocked by the eating place were damaged.

Mrs. Dorothy B. McKee, manager of the coffee shop, stated that a watchman had been in the place as late as 2 a. m., and there was no sign of fire then.

The smoke stained walls in the main dining room and kitchen on the ground floor and found its way into the second floor, also used by the Howe shop. The apartment of Mrs. Alice M. Stevers on the third floor also was badly smoked.

Firemen, using several streams of water, kept the flames confined to the restaurant basement but smoke rolled into the Combination Dry Goods company store and thoroughly permeated the stock, seriously affecting the two main floors and the basement. No flames or water found their way into the premises, Salander said.

Considerable smoke also entered the Carroll Cut Rate Drug store, adjoining the Howe shop on the east.

Carpenters, glaziers and plumbers were put to work in the Howe shop within two hours after the firemen had left. Mrs. McKee stated that she expected to be able to reopen the establishment, in part, tomorrow.

The building attacked by the fire is owned by the Flora Hall estate.

The Combination Dry Goods company store was closed yesterday pending the arrival of insurance adjusters. President Salander stated that the store will be reopened Saturday.

Answering another alarm, firemen responded to a summons at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon from a caretaker of St. Paul's Universalist church, a voice announcing over a telephone that "the boiler is going to blow up."

The firemen found the church edifice filled with steam but discovered that their services were not needed. The water in the furnace boiler had evaporated. The fire had been drawn but the metal of the boiler had become extremely hot and as water seeped slowly back into the container fresh steam was generated. In addition, the heated metal cracked ominously, firemen said.

## Push Hunt For Firebug

Several Youths Questioned by Police in Effort to Solve Mystery of 4 Blazes.

Although several boys were questioned by police yesterday no headway was reported last night as authorities sought to find the person or persons responsible for setting four fires in the downtown section of the city late Tuesday afternoon.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said yesterday that the whole matter had been turned over to the police and that he had no doubt an arsonist was responsible for the blazes. Chief Koltonski said that it seemed to him more probable that a man rather than a boy had set the fires, all but one of which were found in rubbish piles behind buildings in the downtown section.

Most of the boys questioned yesterday were youths who customarily collect waste paper from the buildings where the fires were discovered. Police Officers Geno Franzoni and Quincy Baker questioned several youths yesterday while Officer John Dinn questioned several youths after the fires Tuesday night.

MAY 16, 1942

## Police and Firemen Hunt Firebug Following Four Incendiary Blazes in City

Blazes in Rubbish Piles Behind Three Stores in Business District and Dwelling House Garage Deliberately Set, Fire Officials Report; Alarms All Sounded Within About an Hour.

Four fires were deliberately set in the city by an arsonist yesterday afternoon, according to opinions given last night by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and Capt. James Rice. The only serious damage resulting from the four fires was the destruction of the right front tire on an automobile owned by Henry Travers of 89 Temple street. Shortly after 10 o'clock last night, a fire of undetermined origin but not connected with the incendiary blazes, damaged the rear storeroom of an East street residence owned by Mrs. George Costello to the extent of \$500.

In little more than an hour, from 4:50 to 6:10 o'clock, the firebug circulated through the business district from Metzger's store on Center street to the Tuttle store on Willow street.

The first alarm came from Mrs. Frank Johnson of 17 Madison street, where a pile of rubbish at the rear of her two-car garage was ignited. The blaze was extinguished by the department at 4:50 o'clock.

Shortly after 5 o'clock fire broke out in a pile of old Christmas tree decorations behind a barn on the Metzger property at 60 Center street. Travers' automobile was parked close by and the flames burned the tire before firemen controlled them.

A half-hour lull ensued, but at 5:50 o'clock paper boxes and wrapping paper stacked behind the Economy store were reported ablaze. Egbert Tuttle, a clerk in the Tuttle Law Print on Willow street, went to the Economy store fire. He returned to his place of employment shortly after 6 o'clock and found a fire burning behind the building which he put out without the aid of the fire department.

Police and firemen immediately opened an investigation but had nothing to report late last night.

The storeroom which burned fiercely for about 15 minutes was adjacent to the Costello kitchen. Articles ranging from golf clubs to furniture were destroyed and the kitchen was blackened with smoke.

Only other fire of the day started in gasoline-soaked rags being used to clean an automobile at 147 Crescent street. There was no damage.

## Smoke Attracts Crowd At Rubbish Blaze

Attracted by clouds of smoke, hundreds of Rutland shoppers and homeward-bound workers watched firemen extinguish a rubbish blaze yesterday afternoon in an apartment at 15 1/2 Center street before anything more serious than moderate smoke damage occurred. A box alarm was turned in at 5:14 o'clock.

Four pieces of fire apparatus answered the call, two at Center street in front of the building and two at Willow street in the rear.

One fireman went up through the smoke-filled apartment house to the third floor where a rubbish container was blazing. He stepped out on the roof and threw a rope to firemen below on Willow street. A hose was tied to the rope and pulled up.

The property is owned by Mrs. M. M. Miner, firemen said.





Herald Photo.

Above—Smoke which did much of the damage to the Mead Community house during the pre-dawn fire Saturday is seen above as firemen were battling stubborn embers which repeatedly burst into flames around the dormer windows on the historic building's top floor. The white-coated figure at the top of the ladder is Deputy Chief Ralph Bean, pushing a hose to the man appearing in the window for use inside.

## Fire Damage Set at \$7500

Loose Connection in Fuse Box  
Seen Cause of Community  
House Blaze.

The board of governors of the Mead Community house, of which Wilbert E. Burditt is chairman, are awaiting the arrival today of insurance adjusters from Montpelier before taking steps to arrange for the extensive repairs that will be necessary as result of the early-morning fire which swept through a part of the three-story building Saturday, causing loss estimated by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski at \$7500.

The fire started, according to Chief Koltonski, who conducted an investigation of the matter after the blaze had been extinguished, from a loose connection in a fuse box in the boiler room in the basement.

The partition most seriously affected by the flames formed the south wall of a small dining room on the ground floor and the office of the Congregational church on the second floor. None of the furnishings in these rooms was reached by the flames but there was some damage by smoke and water as the firemen were obliged to tear up flooring in order to get water to the fire.

There was little in the way of furnishings on the top floor so that loss there was confined to walls and ceiling. The northern half of the building was affected somewhat by smoke but no fire reached it.

Members of the Community house governing board spoke in high praise yesterday of the work of the firemen in keeping the blaze within the partitions and thus preventing much more serious damage than actually was done.

Firemen, aided by Arthur Johnson, caretaker of the Community house, saved valuable church records, stored in the office used by Miss Louise E. Paige, secretary to the church pastor, the Rev. J. Graydon Brown, and also bandages and other materials used by the Red Cross, which had a workroom in the building, and equipment used by the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and some other organizations.

The big gymnasium, located in an annex on the south side of the Community house, was not reached by the flames, nor was the main heating plant damaged.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur D. Johnson and their little daughter, Gale, who were obliged to flee from their apartments on the second floor of the building when the fire broke out, are with relatives in the city temporarily.

Firemen expressed their gratefulness to Mrs. Charles T. Quigley of Center street, who served the members of the force with hot coffee during their cold early-morning battle.

Although owned by the Congregational church, the Community house is undenominational and is used as a meeting place and recreation center by many groups. The gymnasium was built and the entire plant presented, with endowment, to the church by the late Gov. John A. Mead.

The building was erected by the State Bank of Rutland, prior to 1860. It later became the home of John B. Reynolds and family and was bought by Gov. Mead from Lucien H. McIntyre, now of Tampa, Fla., and Rutland, in 1915. The Mc-

Intire family also used it as a residence.

The structure was dedicated as a Community house in May, 1917.

It is expected that the place will again be made available for public use as soon as repairs can be completed.

FEBRUARY 19, 1942

## Fire Rekindles, Again Damages North St. House

Fire which swept through second-floor rooms and sheds of a two-family house at 60 North street shortly after midnight yesterday morning causing estimated damages of \$800, rekindled in partitions three hours later and again raced through the apartment before being checked without much additional damage. It was the third sizeable blaze within a period of about 24 hours.

Firemen were called for the second time and again laid lines to bring water against flames which quickly caught on charcoal and charred timbers. Drafts from open doors and windows helped the flames to spread.

The rekindled fire was thought to have started in the shed and covered about the same route that it took earlier. Firemen said that only a widespread tearing down of undamaged partitions and walls would bring a complete assurance that a fire of that nature could not rekindle.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cheney and their three children have moved from their apartment on the first floor, which though not burned, received smoke and water damage.

At 10:26 o'clock this morning fire apparatus was called to extinguish a truck fire at the corner of Howe and Franklin streets. There was little damage.



# Fire Razes Bobbin Mill At Mendon

Loss of \$100,000 Estimated  
From Blaze Which Threat-  
ens Colony of Houses.

On Government Orders

Manager Ascribes Cause of  
Fire to Sparks From Fire-  
box in Power House.

Flames sweeping through a saw-mill of the White River Bobbin company in Mendon yesterday noon caused damages estimated to exceed \$100,000 before they were brought under control by the Rutland Fire department and scores of volunteers.

The blaze at one time threatened to wipe out a small colony of homes nearby. Besides the main bobbin mill the power house and a dwelling, owned by the manager, Harley Benware, were burned to the ground. All the structures were of frame construction and burned like dry tinder making a conflagration described by Fire Captain James Rice as "the hottest I ever experienced."

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and Capt. Rice led firemen in the battle with the flames. Many auxiliary firemen from Rutland as well as volunteers from Mendon joined the struggle to check the advancing fire.

Thousands of dollars of valuable bobbin machinery was lost in the flames. Manager Benware declared. Benware ascribed the cause of the fire to sparks from the firebox in the power house. The sparks are believed to have fallen upon shavings and spread to other inflammable material nearby.

The sawmill, which is owned by C. S. Canning of Rochester, has largely abandoned bobbin work in favor of large war orders for the government. The mill has been turning out lumber for emergency construction purposes. There was little finished lumber lost yesterday although thousands of feet of lumber was repeatedly in danger until the fire was brought under control.

Volunteers formed a bucket brigade to wet down the roofs of a smaller saw house adjacent to the larger building. Two large gathering tanks for maple sap were rushed from the nearby farm of Roy Crossman and were used as emergency reservoirs for the bucket brigades.

Engines 1 and 4 from Rutland laid over 1000 feet of hose from a small brook nearby in order to bring a stream against the flames. Firemen drove a pumping engine into a meadow and after throwing a dam across the small brook succeeded in securing enough water to supply one hose.

The power house caught fire first and the flames rapidly jumped the gap to the bobbin mill. The bobbin mill burned with such a fierce intensity that witnesses reported the dwelling of Benware literally burst into flames on the side towards the mill without any actual contact with the fire.

Volunteers, largely wives and children of the workers engaged in fighting the fire, carried out furniture from the Benware home and then emptied their own dwellings as the flames appeared to be sweeping forward unchecked.

At the height of the holocaust the flames ignited parched fields north of the buildings and firemen had to

be dispatched to check the burning grass before forest fires started in pine woods at the border of the meadow.

About a half million bobbins valued at more than \$5000 were lost inside the mill, Benware declared. Other losses included a truck, four bobbin lathes, two splitting machines, five saws and a bolting saw rig, two steam engines, conveyors and two boilers.

The mill was built about seven years ago and employed 14 men, Benware declared. The manager asserted that as far as he knew no insurance was carried on the mill property. Estimate on the total damage was made by Benware, who said that it might even exceed \$150,000. Much of the machinery in the mill is virtually unobtainable now, it was asserted.

Several hundred thousand feet of lumber and logs were piled in various yards around the buildings. Most of these piles were saved. They contained spruce, hemlock and pine for government construction work.

At a late hour last night a large pile of sawdust was still burning and fire officials estimated that it would be days of even weeks before the tons of sawdust stopped smoldering.

Three families were driven from their homes by fire of undetermined origin which nearly destroyed a two-tenement dwelling at 389 West street and completely destroyed a connecting house in the rear of the building yesterday morning. The dwellings, owned by Gratz and Mary Powers of North Clarendon, are located beyond the Rutland city-Rutland town line, next to Orzel's market in Center Rutland.

Families of Rudolf Hollman, living in the rear building, and of Walter Lloyd and A. F. Dorr, occupying the tenements in the main building, were forced to flee as scores of neighbors who had volunteered their services, assisted them in salvaging some items of clothing and household possessions.

The Rutland Fire department, under the direction of Deputy Chief Frank H. Seward, responded to a call to the scene of the fire at 8:35 o'clock. When the trucks arrived the rear dwelling, occupied by the Hollman family, was in ruins, and firefighters concentrated their attention on the two-story building, working until 1 o'clock in the afternoon before the flames were extinguished. Deputy Chief Seward said that a high wind, spurring on the progress of the blaze, hampered the work of the firemen. The front and center rooms of the building were saved, but the fire completely damaged the rear of the building and the roof in that part of the house collapsed.

A total of 1700 feet of hose were laid from the last hydrant in Rutland city near Ripley crossing to the burning building and the water was pumped in order to boost the pressure.

# Coal-Gas Kills Woman

Mrs. William Traynor, 86,  
Dies; Her Husband, 82, in  
Serious Condition.

Mrs. Matilda Traynor, 86, of 125 State street was asphyxiated by carbon monoxide gas early yesterday and her husband, William, 82, was in critical condition at the Rutland hospital last night as a result of the fumes which poisoned the aged couple in their sleep.

Mrs. Traynor was found dead in her bed when police broke into the small upstairs apartment early yesterday afternoon. Firemen were summoned and worked over the unconscious body of Traynor for over an hour with an oxygen inhalator before he was removed to the hospital.

At a late hour last night Dr. F. E. Quigley reported that Traynor's heart and pulse were improved and that he had a "50-50" chance for recovery. His condition was described as "fair."

James Abatiell, who operates a shoe repair shop on the ground floor of the building at 125 State street gave the first warning that something was amiss with the aged couple. Abatiell, not hearing any signs of life in the apartment overhead, hurriedly called a neighbor, Mrs. William Taggart of 121 State street, who in turn telephoned police.

Patrolman Clayton Peer, sent to investigate, found the door to the apartment locked. Unable to rouse the occupants and detecting the smell of coal fumes Peer forced his way into the apartment by removing the door from its hinges.

The police officer found the three-room apartment filled with gas fumes and smoke and hurriedly threw open the windows and doors. Entering the bedroom, Officer Peer found the aged couple in their bed with Mr. Traynor the only person showing signs of life. The officer immediately called police headquarters and the fire department and Dr. James J. Reedy were summoned.

Dr. Reedy found that Mrs. Traynor had apparently been dead for several hours before the plight of the aged couple was discovered.

Deputy Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean led a group of three firemen who used the inhalator to revive Traynor. Operating the inhalator were Captain James Rice and Firemen Thomas G. Ross and Martin F. Kelly.

Considerable criticism was aroused at the scene of the accident by the fact that no ambulance appeared to take Traynor to the hospital until about 50 minutes after firemen started working on the aged man.

Although Dr. Reedy reported that he had told police to summon an ambulance soon after his arrival, and the police declared they made immediate efforts to call an ambulance, no vehicle was obtained until nearly 3:15 o'clock. The firemen had been notified and answered the call at 2:15 o'clock.

Spencer's ambulance took Traynor to the hospital and Charles W. Spencer declared afterwards that he had responded immediately to the call from his office, which was not received there until about 3:10 o'clock.

# Oil Plant Endangered

Fire in Scrap Paper Storage  
Building Menaces 50,000  
Gallons of Gasoline.

Flames raging through a 30-ton pile of scrap paper stored in a West street warehouse were checked last night by firemen before they spread to 50,000 gallons of gasoline in the nearby bulk plant of the Tide Water Oil company.

Damage to the warehouse and its contents was estimated at \$2000 by Joseph Mintzer, one of the owners, and damage to the oil company's property was also estimated at \$2000 by W. Ross Pearson, district manager.

The warehouse was destroyed. A roof on one of the oil company's garages was burned off and five empty oil storage tanks burst due to the intense heat.

On arriving at the scene shortly after 6:47 o'clock, firemen immediately concentrated their hoses on the loaded oil tanks to cool them. About 30 regular firemen and auxiliaries fought the blaze at its height. A dense column of smoke, visible in outlying towns, brought thousands to the scene. The bundles of scrap papers and the charred uprights of the building were still smoldering early this morning.

The origin of the blaze was undetermined. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said last night that an investigation was underway. Koltonski's opinion was that the blaze was started by someone, either accidentally or deliberately. The warehouse had recently undergone an inspection and all fire hazards had been removed. All the doors and windows of the frame building were padlocked or boarded up, and warehouse had not been entered, to the owners' knowledge, since last Saturday.

All the equipment of Fire Station 1 was called. Truck No. 2 at the Center street station was putting out a grass fire at 95 Temple street at the time of the alarm.

A pile of scrap rubber on the oil company's premises was slightly charred. Fearon explained that rubber shipments were moving slowly owing to the scarcity of freight space. He said that not much of the rubber pile was damaged.

About 3000 feet of hose were used to quench the flames. Firemen rescued a repair truck from the oil company's garage in the midst of the fire. The only casualty was a cut finger sustained by one of the volunteer firemen.

Chief Koltonski and Assistant Chief Frank H. Seward inspected the warehouse last Wednesday and made suggestions to the owners about the removal of fire hazards. Joseph and Harry Mintzer, co-owners of the building and its contents, carried out these instructions "to the letter," Koltonski declared.

The burned building was 100 by 60 feet and was covered by a small amount of insurance although its contents were not. The fire was 150 feet east of the bulk oil plant.



# Fires, Accidents Prevail As Cold Wave Hits Area

Five Tons of Meat Saved as Flames Level City's Only Slaughter House; Tenement Burns, Fair Haven.

## Six Injured

East Pittsford and Rutland Persons Injured in Auto Mishap; City Has Third Coldest Day in 26 Years.

The third coldest day in the 26 years since official weather records were begun in Rutland, yesterday saw fires and motor vehicle accidents bring loss and suffering to some and delay and discomfort to many in the Rutland area.

Six people en route home from a funeral were taken to Rutland hospital last night following an accident on the Pittsford road.

Fire completely destroyed the Stearns meat packing plant near Park street early yesterday afternoon.

A two-story tenement building in Fair Haven also burned to the ground.

Rutland firemen answered seven other calls, the damage in these cases being minor or none, however.

Bus and train crews reported the going difficult and trains here were as much as six hours late and in some cases getting later.

(At 2 o'clock this morning thermometers in the outlying sections of the city registered from 31 to 35 below zero. At East Pittsford a thermometer registered 45 below. In downtown Rutland there were readings of from 25 to 28 below.)

With an official low of 27 degrees below zero yesterday morning to start with, the thermometer never climbed above an official high of minus 14.

Coldest days on official record were December 30, 1917, the day remembered by many local residents as "the day of the Bardwell hotel fire," when the low was minus 27 and the high was a chilly

The meat packing plant and slaughter house of the firm of Howard C. Stearns & Son on Park street, burned to the ground shortly after noon although fast and efficient work on the part of members of the Rutland Fire department and Herrick Stearns, manager, resulted in saving five tons of meat valued at \$3000, and releasing several head of cattle worth \$2000.

The fire department crews and two trucks which were called to the scene at 12:21 o'clock were unable to curb the progress of the flames when the heavy trucks became mired in a ditch by the side of the narrow roadway which leads to the building, located across a field about a quarter of a mile on the left side from the main highway in the vicinity of Billings bridge.

After turning into the narrow roadway, the first truck slipped from the icy and slanting roadway into a ditch. The second truck, in attempting to pass the first, became stuck in a snowdrift. Under the direction of Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and Deputy Chief Ralph R. Bean, the truck crew rushed to the building, and carried out four tons of beef and a ton of veal from the cooler before the roof of the structure collapsed.

The work of releasing the cattle and carrying out the meat was carried out in the face of a piercing wind, with the temperature hovering in the vicinity of 16 degrees below zero. Just 20 minutes after firemen reached the scene the roof of the building collapsed.

Attempts were made by the firemen to get their equipment to the scene of the blaze by digging the trucks out of the snow. No water was available at the scene, however, and booster lines could not be put into operation.

Mrs. Howard C. Stearns and her son, Herrick, owners of the building, stated last night that the exact amount of the damage had not been determined. However, the building was one of the most modernly equipped in this section. There were two refrigeration plants and modern slaughtering equipment in the building.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said yesterday that the cause of the blaze had not been established. It was believed, however, by the owners, that the fire may have originated in the explosion of a boiler or an oil burner. It was discovered by one of the employees of the plant.

The business was established several decades ago by the late Myron Stearns, well-known cattle farmer. The business later passed into the hands of his son, Howard C. Stearns, who died last year. Mrs. Stearns and her son, Herrick, have been carrying on the operation of the plant, which has been exceedingly busy, especially in recent months with the country facing a meat shortage due to war conditions.

## Fire Guts City Barn

Damage of \$1500 Is Caused to Storage Building at Poorfarm; Tools Lost.

Fire which caused damage of \$1500 to a large storehouse at the Rutland City poorfarm Saturday afternoon, gutted the interior of the two-story wooden building, and destroyed a quantity of hay, furniture and farm equipment, which had been kept there.

According to Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, who made the damage estimate, the fire broke out in a partition behind an overheated stove, on which water was boiled to wash milk utensils. The structure is located on Woodstock avenue, across the road from the city farm.

Eighteen regular and call firemen worked for two hours before the flames were finally extinguished. Fifteen hundred feet of hose were laid from a hydrant on Stratton road, and two trucks were driven through snowdrifts to reach the burning building, which stands 800 feet from the highway. The firemen were obliged to pitch the smoldering hay from the burning storehouse, as it is water resistant. Farm machinery destroyed included a hay loader and various small tools.

The blaze was discovered by a farm inmate, who immediately notified Overseer of the Poor Oscar Bergstrom, who was eating dinner at the farm. A telephone alarm was received at the Rutland Fire station at 1:33 o'clock. Call firemen were summoned when Box 24 was rung on the transmitter.

Under the direction of Overseer Bergstrom, 10 hogs were released from a piggery near the burning storehouse, when the fire was discovered, as a precautionary measure. The sty was not damaged however. Bergstrom said that the storehouse usually contains cotton material used by the local WPA mattress project, but there was none stored in the building Saturday.

## Overheated Flatiron Sets Curtains Afire In Parish Building

Prompt application of buckets of water prevented what might have been a serious fire at the parish house of Church of Christ the King at an early hour yesterday morning when a flatiron in which the current had been left on ignited window drapes, according to fire officials.

The electric iron had become overheated and burned through a sewing machine upon which it stood to set the fire which caught at one end of the room, it was stated. The parish house occupants quenched the flames, but not before they had burned window hangings and scorched paint and woodwork around three windows. Firemen were summoned, but arrived to find the blaze well under control.

Firemen set out again about noon to find another fire averted at 16 Strongs avenue where a blazing container had been carried from the kitchen. Overheated grease caused the flare-up, fire officials said.

At 3:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon fire broke out in a partition adjacent to pipes leading from a heating unit at 79 North street, the home of Irving H. Baker. There was no damage.

## Dog Dies In Stable Blaze

However, C. I. Hendee, Owner, Rescues 12 Horses and Pony.

A Dalmation dog, "Spot", was burned to death and 12 horses and a pony were rescued when fire swept through the stable of C. I. Hendee on North street extension early yesterday morning. The building was owned by Miss M. Ella Cameron of Edson street.

Hendee estimated the loss in equipment at \$2000, which he said was not covered by insurance. The Rutland fire department responded to a telephone alarm at 7:57 o'clock, and the blaze was extinguished in an hour.

Deputy Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean said that the fire originated in the "tack" room of the stable, probably from a defective oil stove. Saddles, bridles, harnesses, robes and other equipment in the room were destroyed. In addition to furniture in an adjoining room where Hendee resided during the winter months. A small quantity of hay in the loft was also destroyed. Firemen said the flames quickly reached the loft and cupola of the barn causing much damage, but the main floor was not seriously affected.

Hendee said that he started to prepare coffee on the two-burner oil stove in the back room, where the dog was lying. He left the room for a few minutes and returned to find it filled with smoke. He rushed to release the 12 horses and a pony, including "Afton," a racing horse owned by Paul Preston of this city from the building, believing that the dog had found safety.

Hendee operates the barge and a two-seater sleigh which transports skiers to Pico. He said that he will make the trip as usual tomorrow.

The veteran horseman lists among the items lost, 14 saddles, many of them new; 25 bridles, eight robes, including a valuable buffalo robe; harnesses, all of his furniture.

Hendee's greatest loss, however, he said dejectedly last night, was that of his dog.

## Two Fire Calls Made Almost at Same Time

Just as two fire trucks left the Rutland station at 8 o'clock yesterday morning to answer a telephoned alarm to a fire in a house at 6 Hopkins street, another call came in from a house at 264 West street which was the scene of a chimney fire.

The call for the West street fire was put on the transmitter and a box alarm sounded. At the Hopkins street house, occupied by Louis Savage and family, a fire in a partition, caused by an overheated stove-pipe, was extinguished with the use of a booster line. One of the trucks which started for the first fire was sent to West street.

At 11:45 o'clock yesterday morning firemen put out a chimney fire at the home of Vincent Elkey, 143 Second street.



## Fire Does \$100 Damage To Frank Ryan's House

Fire which broke out at 10 o'clock yesterday in the basement of a house at 88 Forest street owned by Frank Ryan, police officer, caused an estimated \$100 damage to walls and ceiling before firemen quenched the flames by means of a booster line.

Some damage was caused to a back shed on the ground floor as the fire swept up the stairs and along partitions.

The cause of the blaze could not be determined, but it was thought to have started at the foot of the cellar stairs. Ceilings and walls were badly scorched, but no furniture or belongings suffered, firemen said.



COLDER

Today's  
Weather  
Forecast

4/2/43

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 24, 1943.

## Dickinson Barn Burned

Large Building, Housing 80  
Tons of Hay, Levelled on  
East Proctor Road.

Flames of undetermined origin last night leveled a large barn on the East Proctor road owned by David Dickinson in a spectacular fire which destroyed 80 tons of hay, a truck, milking machinery and at least one calf. A dozen more calves were freed while flames were racing through the hay mows.

Rutland firemen, who were called by telephone at 10:05 o'clock, arrived to find the 100-foot-long barn a mass of fire, the nearest water in Otter creek and line laying impossible. Water from a booster line was thrown on an adjoining creamery shed continuously for several hours to keep it from bursting into flame. Booster tanks were replenished by a brigade of milk can carriers.

The fire was discovered by Mrs. Dickinson. Her shouts brought her husband and neighbors who freed the animals and moved some of the milking machinery while flames were boiling out from both ends of the barn superstructure. David Dickinson, Jr., aged 16, saved the tractor which was standing beside the barn. The milk truck, filled with hay, could not be moved, nor could a valuable milking machine motor.

Despite gasoline scarcity, scores of cars were attracted from around the countryside by the glare and the leaping cone of yellow smoke and sparks.

Dickinson is the owner of a sizable farm which he operates with the aid of his family alone, no help having been available. Adjoining property was purchased from Clarence Shedd several years ago and added to the Dickinson farm. There are three daughters.

The destroyed barn, which was on the west side of the road in the town of Center Rutland, was one of the largest in the area.

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 12, 1943.

## Woman Rescued, Dogs Die In Blaze on Pittsford Road

Miss Huldah Salter Saved by  
Neighbor, Theodore Burditt,  
as Flames Gut House  
Ell; Score of Dogs Saved.

Miss Huldah Salter of the Pittsford road, well-known breeder of English and Irish setters, was saved from death by suffocation by a neighbor, Theodore Burditt, who, after a hazardous search of nearly 10 minutes, discovered her unconscious form at the head of a stairway in a fire which gutted the ell of her home yesterday afternoon.

From five to eight dogs died in the blaze. Among them was a Boston bull terrier, said to be owned by Attorney Asa S. Bloomer of West Rutland, speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltanski, who directed the work of the Rutland Fire department in extinguishing the blaze, last night credited Burditt with saving Miss Salter's life.

Although no official statement was made last night by fire officials as to the exact cause of the fire, pending a final check-up, neighbors said that the blaze originated when one of the dogs tipped over an oil stove in a room in the back part of the Salter house.

For many years the Pittsford road woman has raised English and Irish setters and boarded other dogs. At the time of the fire it was believed that she was caring for more than 30 animals, most of them setters. Some of the dogs were in the house, and some in a barn outside, when the flames broke out.

The telephone call to the Rutland Fire department was given by Miss Salter, who then gave the alarm to neighbors. Burditt, arriving shortly after he received the message, made a thorough search of the ground floor of the story and a half ell, which connects with the two-story building forming the front of the house.

Himself, nearly overcome by smoke, Burditt finally found Miss Salter lying unconscious at the head of the stairway leading to a "semi-attic." The woman was being dragged from the house when the fire department arrived. She was taken in a truck to the Roy A. Burroughs home, where she was given first aid by Dr. Thomas McGarry of this city. The physician ordered that Miss Salter be removed to the Rutland hospital in an ambulance. At the institution last night her condition was reported as better. Dr. McGarry said that it is expected that she will remain at the hospital for a few days until danger of pneumonia is passed.

Firemen and neighbors released about 25 dogs from the burning building. Early last night 20 had been recovered, and it was believed that about five more were in the woods nearby. The carcasses of five or more of the animals were carried from the Salter house, only one of them having been burned. The others were victims of suffocation. One dog recovered after it was given artificial respiration.

The Salter house is on the site of the old "Whipple Brook" farm, about an eighth of a mile in back of the Burroughs home which stands on the main highway between Rutland and Pittsford.

Miss Salter has for many years occupied the farmhouse, and the farm buildings and land is rented by E. R. Wheeler, who stood in readiness to release cattle if the flames from the Salter house threatened the building where they were housed.

Firemen were called to the scene at 3:20 and the trucks returned to Rutland at 5:26 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The blaze was confined entirely to the ell in the rear of the structure. The booster tank in the trucks ran dry after 150 gallons of water had been played on the flames, and water was then pumped from a spring brook in the pasture more than 400 feet away.

Firemen recalled last night that the present home of Miss Salter is built on the site of her former home which burned to the ground December 8, 1934. At that time 50 dogs were rescued, but many valuable antiques were a total loss.

## \$1000 Loss In Bank Fire

Killington Bank Blaze Attracts  
Large Crowd; Paint Clean-  
ing Fluid Believed Cause.

A fire which attracted a considerable crowd of spectators during the early evening broke out on the first floor of the Killington National bank and Rutland Trust company on Merchants Row causing an estimated \$1000 damage to walls and furniture last night.

The blaze was discovered at 9 o'clock in the receiving room of the bank where painters were cleaning the woodwork. Fire officials believe that contact between a defective light fixture and the cleaning fluid was the cause.

An alarm rung in from box 47 by Police Officer Reginald Nos and a telephone call summoned firemen from the central station. Two booster lines were used.

The blaze, which started on the side wall behind the counter, spread through the partitions but smoke caused the greater part of the damage. Walls and ceilings in the main room were coated and blistered by the dense smoke and heat. Smoke permeated the marble walls of the adjoining bookkeeping and vault room.

Bank officials reported all valuables unharmed. A steel safe which stood close to the blaze was undamaged.

The estimate of loss in the fire, which was extinguished by 9:37 o'clock, was made by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltanski and bank officers. Auxiliary firemen aided in protecting property and the police stopped traffic and kept back spectators on Merchants Row.



## 25 Chickens Die in Fire

Some Poultry Saved, Clothing  
Destroyed in Early Morning  
Geno Avenue Blaze.

Fire of unknown origin which flared up through the roof of an outbuilding at 137 Geno avenue at 3:50 o'clock yesterday morning killed about 25 chickens and destroyed a quantity of clothing and sports equipment before the fire department subdued the flames. Total damage was unofficially estimated at about \$300.

Henry Preville, the owner, first discovered the flames in the structure, which is used as a storeroom and children's playhouse, with adjoining chicken shed. After hurriedly freeing some of the poultry, he telephoned to firemen who arrived with two pieces of apparatus to find flames bursting through the roof of the playhouse at tree-top height.

A considerable crowd was attracted by the heavy smoke and glare which could be seen throughout the Pine Hill district and from all around the valley to the east.

An alarm was sent in from box 75 by an unknown person, bringing most of the auxiliary firemen to the scene as well as Engine 2 from the uptown station. Box 75 is listed under City Park.

Hundreds of feet of fire line were laid and the flames were extinguished before they could spread through the structure. However, many of the chickens in the chicken house, as well as clothing, toys and furniture were ruined by the heat and smoke.

Police Officers D. J. Noonan and C. F. Callahan made an investigation of the fire and handled traffic throughout the area.

It was the first fire at which fire hose has been brought into service in a number of weeks.

DECEMBER 31, 1943

## Fire Alarm Box Operates Even Though Auto Jars It From Pole

A little more than an hour after an automobile which figured in a collision yesterday morning at the intersection of Grahger and Plain streets had crashed into and splintered a telephone pole, leaving a fire alarm box dangling from it, residents of the area found the apparatus in working order and were able to turn in a signal which brought fire trucks to the scene of a Plain street blaze.

Chief of Police Harold S. Potter reported that the collision occurred at 8:19 o'clock. It involved a coupe, owned and operated by Hubert Hughes of Benson, and a sedan owned by James Densmore of Rutland and driven by Dominic Coursey of Granger street. Although there was considerable damage to both vehicles and the telephone pole was broken, there were no personal injuries, the chief said. The investigating officer was Clayton E. Peer. He found that, although the alarm box had been jarred from the pole, it was not damaged.

Damage of approximately \$500 was caused by the fire which attacked a tenement house at 73 Plain street, occupied on the first floor by the family of Mrs. Angelina Ettori and on the second floor by Mrs. Anna Fortier.

Deputy Fire Chief Ralph Bean said that he believed the blaze, which originated in the

basement, was caused by overheated steam pipes. The flames crept through partitions, extending from the first to the second stories, and then into the attic.

The trucks were called out by a box alarm, No. 65, sounded at 9:55 o'clock, and the blaze was brought under control in a half hour.

JULY 31, 1944.

## Blazing Flue, Short Circuits in Wiring Keep Firemen Busy

Three small fires called out the Rutland Fire department apparatus during the week-end. The first summons came on Saturday morning at 11:01 o'clock when there was a chimney fire at the home of D. E. Humphreys, 76 Plain street, a box alarm having been sent in. The trucks returned to the station at 11:09 o'clock.

A call from the Rutland Fire Clay company at 3:23 Saturday afternoon brought firemen to the scene. The source of smoke in the building was found to be from an overheated electric motor in an ice cream cabinet. There was no damage, other than that to the motor.

The last call Saturday was a telephone alarm from the Eagles club rooms on Wales street at 11:56 o'clock at night. Sparks were flying from a short circuit in an electric light fixture in the ceiling of the clubrooms. Firemen removed the fixture.

JANUARY 14, 1944

## Tenement House On Orin Thomas Farm Damaged by Fire

For the second time this month the Rutland Fire department personnel and equipment were called to Rutland town when yesterday morning at 1:53 o'clock, they were summoned to extinguish a fire in a tenement house on the Orin A. Thomas farm on the Pittsford road.

The structure was occupied by three families, those of R. J. Smith, Oliver Terrier and Orin A. Thomas, jr. Firemen found that the blaze, which originated in a chimney at the second floor, had extended through the partitions and spread to the entire attic. Damage was confined mostly to the roof over the main part of the house. It was necessary to remove slate which had been placed over old wooden shingles on one side of the roof to get at the trouble.

There was no water available and firemen used the booster tanks while a farm truck kept them replenished with water from the main farm house. Two pieces of apparatus, Engines No. 1 and 2, were put into operation.

Because of the favorable direction of the wind it was possible to save the big barn near the tenement house.

DECEMBER 29, 1943

## Tree Lights Get Blame for Small State Street Fire

Defective Christmas tree lighting was blamed for a fire which started on or near a Christmas tree and spread throughout a room at 191 State street before being put out last night about 9 o'clock.

The fire spread rapidly over the room, but was doused by the occupants, the Arthur Rivers family, before it could take a firm hold. Firemen arrived to find the flames nearly out, but they were forced to pull out from the house a studio couch which was still burning.

Damage was confined to the room which was scorched throughout, and the couch which was destroyed.

The fire department put out a chimney fire at 38 Church street at about 7:15 o'clock this morning. They were summoned by Box 14 at the corner of Church and Williams street. At 5:10 a. m. firemen were called out by a defective sprinkler system at 15 Evelyn street.

DECEMBER 17, 1943

## Four Families Endangered By Basement Fire

Fire which started in an alleged defective oil heater at 48 West street early last night spread over the basement ceiling and badly charred beams and flooring before smoke seeping into the first floor roused occupants of the four-apartment dwelling about 8 o'clock. Firemen, called by telephone and by an alarm from Box 41 at the corner of West and Wales street, put the fire out by playing water on it from a basement window, and into a partition on the ground floor. The men were obliged to lay hose for the first time in weeks.

Heavy smoke which poured through the house, alarming the four families, several with little children, who were awakened from sleep and moved to neighbors' houses. The flames had nearly broken through the first floor when discovered, firemen said.

Occupants of the building are Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Spicer, Mr. and Mrs. George L. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Norton and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dwight. The house is owned by Dr. Gerhard T. Beck.



## Fire Damages Small House

Rear End of Polcaro Residence on Franklin Street Ruined by Flames.

Fire which started next to a kitchen stove last night caused damage estimated at \$1000 to a frame two-family house at 86 Franklin street at the corner of Granger street. Mrs. Pat Polcaro and five children who occupy the house were not at home at the time the fire broke out.

The rear half of the house was practically destroyed before firemen answering a phone call and an alarm from box 51 at Howe and Franklin streets put out the flames. A kitchen and bedroom at the rear were gutted and a kitchen and bedroom directly above these rooms were also ruined as flames ate up to the attic but did not move into adjoining rooms.

Considerable damage from smoke and water was caused to the rest of the house.

First notice of the blaze, which firemen traced to a woodbox next to a lighted coal stove, was from Mrs. Polcaro who returned to the house from a call to find smoke pouring out the windows. She telephoned from a neighbor's house after vainly seeking an alarm box which had been removed from the corner of Granger and Franklin street.

Three fire trucks responded to the call and lines were directed first to the blazing kitchen and then up to the second floor to keep above the mounting blaze.

Mrs. Polcaro's children were visiting across the road at the home of Mrs. Martin Notte when their mother's calls brought them to the scene. They were Anne, Phyllis, Anthony, Jane and Pat, Jr. Many of their clothes were destroyed in the bedrooms.

The alarm from box 51 was rung in from Station 1 to summon all call men and men off duty when the blaze appeared to be serious.

Estimate of the damage was made by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski.

OCTOBER 22, 1943

## Firemen Called When Oil Sets Kitchen Ablaze

Burning oil from a flooded oil burner set a kitchen at 28 North Main street ablaze about 7:30 o'clock last night and burned a portion of one partition before firemen subdued it with a booster line from the water tank carried on the fire truck.

Engines 3 and 2 responded to a telephone call from the home of Clark H. Mason, but as the fire was spreading, with flames threatening to reach the attic through partitions, Assistant Chief Frank H. Seward telephoned back to the station to have an alarm set up from the station for Box 28, Woodstock avenue near Main street. Engine 1 and the ladder truck responded.

Damage was confined to the kitchen floor and walls and kitchen furnishings. There was some smoke damage elsewhere in the house.

At about 8 o'clock yesterday morning there was a chimney fire at 264 West street. Firemen said there was no damage.

## Fire Guts Center St. Building

Rear of Nos. 33½-37, Owned by Anthony Williams, Destroyed Early Today.

### Fight Fire in Snow

Firemen at 3 o'clock this morning were bringing under control a fire which destroyed the rear end of the block, 33½ - 37 Center street, owned by Anthony Williams and occupied by several business establishments.

While the flames did not reach the front end of the Cereghino restaurant, the Karmelkorn shop and the Billings & Davis hardware store which occupy the ground floor of the block, the fire badly gutted the rear end.

The front end of Cereghino's restaurant was badly damaged by smoke and water.

The stock of the Karmelkorn shop probably was spoiled.

Damage to the Paramount Barber & Beauty shop, owned by Williams, the block proprietor, could not readily be determined.

The firemen did a good job in stopping the blaze, which was raging fiercely when they arrived on the scene.

Members of the auxiliary fire department aided the regular members.

Hundreds of early-rising or late-retiring Rutlanders watched the fire.

The blaze was discovered by Police Officer Daniel J. Brown about 2:20

o'clock. The officer turned in an alarm from Box 43, which summoned every piece of fire-fighting apparatus in the city.

At that time, the flames were leaping high in the air over the wooden building and raging through the rear end of the block. A snow storm was in progress at the time.

Firemen soon had several streams of water playing on the blaze both from the rear and from the front and by 2:45 o'clock the possibility that it would spread further through the business district disappeared.

The building, of wooden construction, blazed fiercely from the time the fire was first discovered by Officer Brown until the flames were brought under control.

## \$22,000 Damage as Fire Razes Center Street Block

Five Establishments Put Out of Business by Flames Which Raged Upward From Rear Piazza; State Fire Marshal Asked to Investigate; Firemen Battle Blaze in Snowstorm.

Damage estimated at \$22,000 was caused early yesterday morning by the fire which roared through the rear end of a block on Center street in the heart of the business section. Approximately \$6500 of the amount was building loss, and the rest merchandise, according to Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski who made the estimate.

A request has been made to the state fire marshal, Montpelier, that a man be sent to investigate the origin of the blaze which swept through the back rooms of building establishments before prompt action by the fire department brought the flames under control. Chief Koltonski said that the fire appeared to have started on a piazza at the rear of the frame block which comprises numbers 33½-37 Center street.

Though five establishments were out of business yesterday as the aftermath, chief damage, according to fire department heads was to merchandise in the Billings & Davis Hardware company. Will L. Davis, who with Seymour Billings owns the store and building, said that stock was in such a chaotic condition from fire, smoke and water that no decision could be made as to future plans.

The Karmelkorn shop lost most of its stock. Upstairs the Paramount Beauty shop in the rear of the building was an almost total loss with all its equipment, according to Anthony Williams, proprietor and building owner. The barber shop facing Center street escaped smoke and water damage. The Cereghino Cafe was gutted at the rear with loss of the greater part of its stock. The Segale restaurant adjoining the Cereghino establishment, though a separate building, received considerable damage from water which came through the roof.

A call from a guest at the Hotel Warwick who saw the glare and an alarm from Box 43 at the corner of West and Willow streets, rung in by Police Officer Daniel J. Brown at 2:20 o'clock summoned all fire equipment in the city excepting Engine 4, as well as auxiliary and call firemen. Six minutes later Box 43 at Center and Wales streets called out every auxiliary fireman who did not respond before.

Firemen found the rear part of the block a sheet of flame, the heat from which had already blown out

windows on the Center street side. Streams of water from four lines, two in front and two from Willow street, were poured into the windows and doors. A ladder truck enabled water to be directed into the inferno from roof-level of the two-story buildings.

Power lines which flashed and sparked before being taken care of behind the blazing buildings were a menace to firemen who also took punishment from heavy smoke mushrooming from every aperture. A snowstorm made footing insecure.

Before firemen returned to their stations at 5 o'clock, a small piazza roof at the rear of the Paramount shop collapsed striking James Barron of station 2 a blow on his fire helmet, but causing no injury.

The J. C. Penney company building west of the burned block and a structure east of it occupied by C. J. Cleveland, optometrist and S. Wayne Terrill, insurance agent, were both undamaged, owners said last night. Both are of stone construction.

Owners of the buildings said that no repair plans could be made yet. It was pointed out, however, that federal restriction on building materials would drastically limit any such repairs.

With the exception of Billings & Davis and the Paramount Beauty shop, the burned second stories consisted mostly of empty storage rooms.

The Billings & Davis store is one of the oldest in the city, having been established in the 1800's. The present owners entered partnership in 1908. Previously it was under ownership of Seymour Billings and the late Albert Brousseau and later Seymour Billings and Alvah H. Pierce.

The fire department was called yesterday at 3:50 in the afternoon to investigate what was thought to be fresh smoke in the Billings & Davis store. A check revealed this false, firemen were glad to report.

## Kingsley Avenue Home Damaged by Attic Fire

Considerable damage was done by fire yesterday morning at 2:15 o'clock to the attic of a dwelling at 17 Kingsley avenue, occupied by H. J. Dorion and family. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Clothing, bedding and family possessions recently moved there were consumed, and walls and rafters were badly scorched by the flames which firemen fought for more than an hour in dense smoke.

The most probable explanation for the blaze, according to Deputy Chief Ralph R. Bean, is that a heated light bulb may have come into contact with inflammable material.

Most of the attic was burned over, but fire did not enter the attic in the other apartment of the duplex house, all of which is owned by John J. Grey.

Two false alarms, one Tuesday night, and box 16 from the corner of Maple and Grove streets last night were answered by the fire department.

## 24 Chickens Saved, Two Die as Fire Attacks Coop

All but two chickens were saved late yesterday afternoon during a fire in a coop which threatened a 40-foot outbuilding at 105 South Main street before being extinguished by firemen. The structure is owned by Philip Pratico and the chickens, numbering 24, are the property of William Medlin.

Fire officials were unable to state how the flames got their start in the partitioned structure, part of which is used for storage. Prompt arrival of fire apparatus confined the damage to one end of the coop. There was no damage to the rest of the building.



# Wolk's Store Has Heavy Loss In One Of Six Fires Here

Contents of Center Street Shop Destroyed as Smoke Pours Into Nearby Stores; Loss Unestimated.

## Firemen Busy

Mintzer Building on Strongs Avenue Also Badly Damaged by Early Morning Blaze; Feed, Flour Lost.

Damage running into the thousands was caused yesterday in the Wolk Store shop on Center street in the sixth of a series of fires which kept the Rutland fire department on the jump from 2:15 o'clock yesterday morning until 8:30 o'clock last night.

The entire spring stock of clothing and equipment of the Wolk store was ruined as flames, originating in the basement, licked through that part of the building and crept up a stairway to the street floor. It was the third business establishment to which the fire department was called during the day.

The first call came at 2:15 o'clock when a blaze was discovered in the Mintzer Brothers grain and building supply store at 60 Strongs avenue, when tenants of the two apartments overhead were forced to flee from the building in their night clothing. The occupants of the apartments, over the office and stock rooms were Miss Carrie Denning, who first detected the smell of smoke, and gave the alarm to Mr. and Mrs. James Santwire, all of whom rushed from the building, and sought shelter with neighbors.

The fire resulted from a defective oil stove in the office, according to Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski. Just as the trucks arrived on the scene a hot air explosion shattered the plate glass windows in the front of the brick faced structure, releasing flames which made their way up the clapboarded sides of the building.

Joseph S. Mintzer, owner and manager of the business, said that office records, equipment and a bag containing money which was in a table drawer were destroyed. Bills in the money drawer were reduced to ashes, firemen said.

In the stock room in the rear of the office damage was caused by fire, smoke and water to a quantity of paint, roofing paper, 80 barrels of flour in paper sacks, a supply of grain, in addition to hardware and maple syrup cans. The fire followed the ceiling and partitions into the back room where less damage was caused to oil, salt, feed, grit and bran stored there. There was smoke damage to the upstairs tenements. Some damage was also reported to stock in the cellar of the building. The rear of the Mintzer block facing Madison street was formerly a grocery store, operated by Henry Cheney. About 12 years ago the present owner erected a new addition on the front of the wooden building, facing Strongs avenue, with a brick front. The structure is all wood, otherwise

A strong southwest wind hampered the efforts of fire fighters, who played water from three lines of hose on the flames. The fire was totally extinguished at 3:50 o'clock yesterday morning.

At 6 o'clock, five hours later, the trucks were called to the New York Clothing store on West street,

where a short circuit in an electric fixture on the ground floor in the women's clothing department set fire to the ceiling. A booster line was used by the firemen, who reported that damage was slight. The trucks returned to the station at 9:12 o'clock.

Fire Chief Koltonski stated that the fire in the Wolk shop started in the alteration room in the basement at approximately 5:50 o'clock. The exact cause of the blaze had not been determined last night. The store had closed for the day at 5:30 o'clock.

The entire stock of women's spring apparel and millinery, including many bridal trousseaus and Easter outfits on which alterations were being made, were destroyed, in addition to wax models and all store equipment. Office records were salvaged by firemen assisted by Miss Katherine Haugh, bookkeeper.

H. H. Wolk, who has been in business in Rutland for 37 years, and who has operated a store on Center street for the past 14 years, stated last night that the damage to his stock amounted to several thousand dollars.

The basement was gutted by the flames and everything in that part of the building was a total loss. On the second floor of the building, the damage was caused largely by water, smoke and intense heat.

Smoke from the Wolk fire also damaged stock in two adjoining buildings, the J. & C. department store on the west side and the Combination Cash store on the east side, Fire Chief Koltonski said. Smoke also entered Howe's coffee shop where many people were dining.

The first call to the fire department was placed by employees of the Combination Cash store, who said they smelled smoke in the Wolk store. The call was received at 5:56 o'clock. All apparatus in the city, and call and auxiliary firemen responded to the box alarm rung by Police Officer Frank Ryan.

Heavy smoke hampered firemen in their work in the front and at the rear of the building, and plate glass windows were broken to release the smoke. A power-operated searchlight was employed to afford an opportunity to see through the smoke. Operations were also hampered by parked cars, some of which were pushed out of the way by spectators. Policemen, under the supervision of

Chief Harold S. Potter, strung up lines to keep the crowds in check.

The building is owned by Thomas Lalor and wife, according to city real estate files.

No official estimate of the fire loss could be obtained last night.

Two grass fires in the morning and one in the afternoon also demanded the attention of Rutland firemen yesterday. At 10:07 o'clock in the forenoon the trucks were called to 122 Robbins street, where a grass fire was brought under control in about 10 minutes.

A grass fire at 8 Wallace avenue, fanned by a high wind, however, forced the firefighters to battle against its progress from 11:36 to 12:25 o'clock. Flames in the tall grass threatened an unoccupied

house, and an adjoining barn on Butterfly avenue.

A third grass fire at 20 Engrem avenue, discovered at 2:28 o'clock, was extinguished at 2:40.

JANUARY 10, 1944.

## Fire Causes \$1000 Loss

2 Rooms of Woodstock Avenue Home Gutted by Blaze First Seen by Neighbors.

Flames from third-story bedrooms which burst out through the roof before being observed about 5:45 yesterday afternoon at the home of G. L. Raymond on Woodstock avenue near Temple street caused an estimated \$1000 damage in the worst of four fires with which firemen coped in the frigid weather during the week-end.

Bedding and a large quantity of clothing and room furnishings fed the blaze which took a strong foothold as the entire family, comprising Mr. and Mrs. Raymond and eight children, were at supper on the ground floor, which contains the Woodstock avenue grocery store of which Mrs. Raymond is the proprietor. Neighbors who saw the flames pouring through the roof called the family and the fire department.

All apparatus except reserve engine No. 4 sped to the scene as Box 24 at Woodstock avenue and Temple street was rung in. Firemen brought into play two lines of large hose in addition to booster lines, but it was two hours before they were able to return. Business was uninterrupted in the grocery store as the men swarmed over the building to get at the flames, which nearly destroyed two rooms on the third floor. Water did some damage to rooms on the second.

At 5:55 o'clock Box 52 signaled a chimney fire at 52 Cherry street, and with all other apparatus busy, with Martin Kelly at the wheel, Engine 4, rolled off to take care of it.

There were two other chimney fires during the week-end: A blaze about 6 o'clock Saturday night at 120 Strongs avenue, and the first of two fires during the day at 52 Cherry street. The earlier call came in at about noon.

The Woodstock avenue fire caused the only damage of consequence. Estimates on the damage there were made by Fire Chief A. H. Koltonski.

## 6 Children Escape Fire

Blaze Causes Considerable Damage at Redington Home on Church St. Early Today.

The six sons and daughters of Mrs. Paul Redington of 26 Church street reached safety early this morning when fire broke out in the woodshed of their apartment on the second floor and caused considerable damage to the house.

The fire was discovered by one of the Redington children about 2:15 a. m. and an alarm was sent in from Box 14 at Church and Williams streets.

Mrs. Redington was at work in Springfield and the children, the youngest seven years old, were in charge of 18-year-old Evelyn Redington. Evelyn awoke the children and took them safely out of doors as the flames licked through the apartment and went through the roof.

The children are staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Shap- py of 24 Church street.

The firemen soon had the blaze under control and the damage was confined to the second story. The Redingtons were unable to remove any of their belongings, the children leaving in their night clothing.

The house is owned by W. L. Stickney of North Main street.

FEBRUARY 18, 1943

## Partition Fire in Burditt House Does Damage

Prompt use of small hose carrying water from the tanks on the fire trucks brought a partition fire under control in a house at the corner of North Main and Temple streets at 3 o'clock yesterday morning just as the flames threatened to spread to other parts of the large wooden building. Damage, mostly confined to walls and a closet on the second floor, was estimated at about \$400 by Chief Alfred H. Koltonski.

A defective fireplace on the third floor, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Wiley, was blamed for the blaze, which authorities said had been smoldering for a long time before breaking out through walls of a second floor apartment occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Roberts.

Discovery of the fire was made by Wiley who said that he returned from work an hour earlier than usual to find the hallway filled with smoke and flames issuing from the Roberts apartment. The latter were unaware of the danger.

All equipment at station 1 responded to the call and alarms from Box 34, but the booster hose lines had the fire out within 15 minutes. A closet on the second floor directly below the fireplace was ruined and adjoining walls were charred badly.

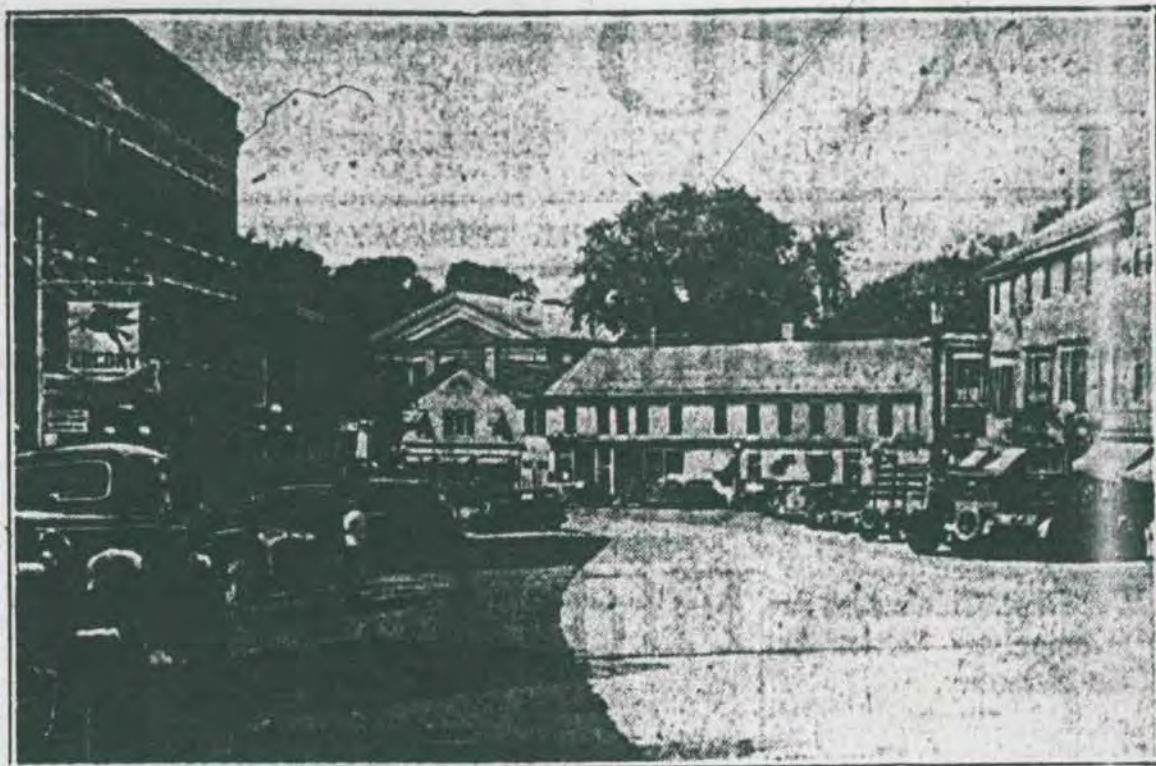
The probability that the heated hearth had caused a smoldering fire as much as 48 hours before it broke through the partitions was strengthened by Wiley's recalling that he had smelled smoke several days earlier.

The building, owned by Mr. and Mrs. George N. Eayres Burditt, is also occupied by Sergt. and Mrs. Harper.



# Fire Razes 2 Brandon Business Blocks, Guts Another With Loss Set at \$200,000 Fifth Army Holds At Salerno Beachhead

RUTLAND DAILY HERALD, THURSDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 16, 1943.



Above is view of Center street in Brandon, showing at extreme left, part of the area which burned during last night's \$200,000 conflagration. Two blocks were destroyed and another damaged. Ten stores with their stock, were either completely gutted or damaged. The heat from the flames cracked windows in the business blocks across the street and blistered paint. (Story Page 1.)

## Brandon Has Worst Fire

(Continued From Page One.)

the bakery, who had been ill for some time, died tonight at 8 o'clock during the height of the blaze without being aware of it.

The stairway adjoining the bakery also burned as the flames spread to the new postoffice which was opened last May 31. Damage to the postoffice block was slight and business will be conducted at the office as usual tomorrow.

While the fire raged toward the postoffice, the employees moved all first class mail and most of the furnishings and furniture to the office of Dr. C. M. Baker.

Firemen experienced difficulty in keeping the flames from spreading to the Brandon inn garage in back of the former Howe company block as the rear side of several Park street stores were scorched.

Heat from the flames was so intense that it cracked windows in the Wright building across the street and blistered paint in show windows.

Fire companies were called from Rutland, Middlebury and Proctor. One engine responded from Rutland under the command of Assistant Fire Chief F. H. Seward, with two regular firefighters and 15 auxiliary firemen. This engine received a call at 7:05 and reached Brandon at 7:20.

and C. J. Nolli which lived upstairs in one of the blocks fled to safety, leaving behind all their household possessions.

Richard L. Widlund, manager of the Brandon inn, sustained a leg injury when the force of water through a hose threw a nozzle against him. He was treated by Dr. J. Seeley Estabrook.

The dance planned by Neshobe Grange was postponed until tomorrow night. The dance is a war stamp benefit.

Brandon's last big fire was early in August when the Weinle block, on the opposite side of the street, was gutted with a loss of several thousands of dollars.

## Temple Street Barn Burns But Firemen Save 2 Nearby Houses

The Rutland Fire department yesterday battled for an hour and a half to bring under control a fire which destroyed a barn and its contents owned by Philip Matt at 107 Temple street, and which spread to a nearby barn owned by Tony Garafano and threatened the Matt and Garafano homes.

Three trucks responded to the alarm at 11:25 o'clock, and the fire was out at 12:50. According to Deputy Fire Chief Ralph Bean, the cause of the blaze had not been determined up to last night. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

The fire apparatus was called to 11 Killington avenue yesterday afternoon, where the residents had believed there was a fire in the partition. The alarm was recorded as needless.

The fire alarm circuits were defective yesterday, resulting in a number of single blasts at intervals during the day.

Members of Four Fire Departments and Scores of Volunteers Battle Town's Worst Conflagration.

## 10 Stores Hit

Delay Caused in Summoning Fire Department Because of Defect in Siren; Rutlanders Aid Fight.

(Special to The Herald.)

BRANDON, Sept. 15.—Members of four fire departments and scores of volunteers tonight battled for four hours before putting under control a roaring fire which mushroomed through two three-story wooden blocks and damaged a third on the east side of Center street at an estimated loss of \$200,000 in Brandon's worst conflagration.

It was believed started from burning papers in the rear of one of the burned blocks.

Ten stores with their stock were either destroyed or damaged and two families made homeless by the fire which struck in the heart of the business section and for a time threatened to spread to the rear of the stores on Park street.

At 6:45 o'clock C. J. Nolli discovered a fire from burning papers in the rear of the block in which he conducts a grocery store had spread to the wooden building. He attempted to put out the flames with a fire extinguisher and sent out word for an alarm to be sounded.

By this time, however, the flames had gained a good start and by the time the fire department arrived, the fire was leaping and roaring with terrific speed through the blocks.

A delay was caused in summoning the Dunmore Hose company of Brandon owing to a defect in the siren which sounded only once, and firemen and volunteers believed at first it was only a test blast. Sirens on automobiles were used to bring out the firemen.

Blocks destroyed were those owned by W. T. and Earl S. Wright and the old Howe Scale company building, owned by the town of Whiting and the Whiting churches. Earl S. Wright lives in Rutland. W. T. Wright, a brother, lives in Canada.

Badly gutted was the rear of the E. A. Keeler block. All are adjoining.

Stores in the Wright block which were burned out were the Grand Union, Nolli's grocery and ice cream parlor, and the Sanders News store.

Other stores in the same building which suffered loss were the J. W. Baker Radio shop and the White restaurant, owned by Carmi Donato.

Stores in the old Howe company block which were gutted were the Benjamin Kaye 5 & 10, S. Arfanis candy store, the F. C. Schuster Oil burners store, and the W. T. Collins bakery.

In the Keeler block the First National store was damaged. The manager is William Purcell.

William T. Collins, owner of



## Man Hurt In Blast Near Iron Works

John W. Erickson in Hospital Following First of Two Explosions.

House Is Hit Twice

Steel Cylinder Ends Blown 300 Feet and Smash Cellular and Side Walls.

One man was seriously injured and the lives of several other persons, including workmen, motorists, pedestrians, children and nearby residents were endangered yesterday at noon when two red hot projectiles shot out by explosions in a scrap pile in the rear of the Lincoln Iron Works building hurtled through the air at lightning speed a distance of more than 300 feet and crashed into the home of Prosper J. LaJoice of 139 State street, causing much damage.

John W. Erickson of Chaplain avenue, a foundry helper, who was in a group of workmen engaged in burning rubber from large hollow metal rollers which had been used in heavy machinery was hurled over a 20-foot embankment by the first blast. At the Rutland hospital last night he was under the care of Dr. James J. Reedy for severe shock, numerous lacerations and contusions and a possible fracture of the pelvic bone.

The first blast occurred at about 11:40 o'clock and the second about 12:06.

Deputy Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean of the Rutland Fire department said that the blast was caused by the expansion of air within the hollow rollers in the heat of the fire. Big round steel ends "sweated in" to the large tubes were hurled in a northerly direction into the LaJoice house, while the rollers themselves, whose action was compared to that of a recoil on a gun, flew in a southwesterly direction. The roller which first exploded, causing injury to Erickson, was three feet six inches long and about 10 inches through. The solid steel end, which crashed into the cellar of the LaJoice house weighed about 75 pounds.

The projectile ripped out a cellar wall of marble and brick, jammed a pipe which conveys gas into the house and ripped out electrical apparatus. The red hot disc came to a stop on an earthen floor.

Lincoln Iron Works officials summoned Dr. James J. Reedy and an ambulance to take Erickson to the Rutland hospital.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Bean of the Rutland Fire department, who had received an inquiry concerning an accident at the Lincoln Iron Works, and Commissioner of Public Safety Richard H. Royce, who was leaving the city hall building at the time, drove to the scene. After learning the cause of the explosion, Bean telephoned for fire department equipment, realizing that a dangerous condition still prevailed.

Commissioner Royce, who went to the LaJoice house, was assisting in quieting Mrs. LaJoice, a semi-invalid, who had become hysterical. Noting that vapor was rising from the scrap pile in the Lincoln Iron Works yard, he rushed to the street and cautioned pedestrians and motorists to vacate the area. Before the fire trucks arrived the second explosion occurred, the projectile passing over the heads of several persons, including Royce. The commissioner summoned police to handle the traffic which congested the area within a short time.

Servicemen from the Central Vermont Public Service corporation arrived to shut off the flow of gas and power into the house in the interests of safety.

The second projectile, which struck the first floor of the LaJoice house, tearing out clapboards and plaster between two windows, flew across the living room, destroying a door jamb, and then bounded against an adjacent wall. It barely missed Prosper LaJoice who had just come home from work at the Rutland Railroad car shop for his noon meal. He had just left the living room. His granddaughter, Josephine Bushey, 4, was entering the front door from the street.

This second disc weighed 12 pounds and was four inches in diameter. Commissioner Royce and Deputy Chief Bean directed the evacuation of houses, and the members of the Rutland fire department cooled the steel tubes on the scrap pile by first using a light spray of water to reduce air pressure, and then playing a heavier stream upon the iron. It was estimated that there were 26 of the tubes left on the burning pile, some of them three feet six inches long, and four inches wide, and others of the same length but seven inches in diameter.

Deputy Chief Bean last night called attention to the fact when any fire, explosion or similar incident occurs the fire department should be notified at once. He stated that had the trucks been promptly called, the second explosion could have been prevented.

Describing the second projectile which struck the LaJoice house, Joseph Hamel, a truckman, walking home from work to his home nearby, said: "I was just coming down the street, and was going to turn into the walk by LaJoice's house here, when I saw a big red ball of fire coming through the air. Then Gee—Bingo!"

The room where the projectile created devastation was decorated in red, white and blue streamers, and contained wedding gifts arranged on tables, owned by the former Gertrude LaJoice, who was married Saturday to Sergt. John Popovitch of Center Rutland. They were due to return from their honeymoon yesterday afternoon.

The house occupied by the LaJoice family is owned by H. Frank Noyes.

Yesterday's accident was the second in recent months for the Erickson family. Early in August 11-year-old Elmer Erickson was hospitalized with severe burns covering his left leg when a container of gasoline from which he was pouring fuel into a truck carburetor in a garage caught fire. Firemen said that Elmer averted a serious fire by carrying the burning gasoline can from the building. Elmer is still a patient at the Rutland hospital, and Dr. Reedy, who is attending both father and son, said last night that it will probably be some time before the boy is able to leave the institution.

## Aged Woman Dies in Belmont Farmhouse Fire

Mrs. Carrie Parmenter Is Fire Victim Only Few Hours After Neighbors Had Presented Her With Cake and Greeting Cards on Occasion of Her 86th Birthday; Oil Stove Blamed for Blaze.

## Church, Hotel Threatened

(Special to The Herald.)

BELMONT, May 5.—A few hours after neighbors had presented her with a cake and greeting cards on the occasion of her 86th birthday, Mrs. Carrie Parmenter was burned to death yesterday in a fire which swept through her home which faces Jackson lake.

Believed to have started from an oil stove, the wind-whipped fire threatened for a time to engulf nearby buildings, including the Community church, and the Green Mountain cottage, a resort hotel, which is across the road.

Crippled by arthritis, Mrs. Parmenter, the widow of Edward Parmenter, was trapped in her chair by the blaze which broke out about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and was not put under control until nearly two hours later, after the arrival of fire departments from Ludlow and Rutland.

Mrs. Parmenter's charred body was not found until nearly 7 o'clock o'clock.

She was believed to have been suffocated by the dense smoke before the flames reached her in the kitchen of her one and one-half story home.

Also destroyed were the household furnishings and the Parmenter barn which contained a few farm tools but no livestock.

Carried by the brisk wind, sparks ignited the roof of the Community church parsonage, and the O. A. Priest garage, more than 300 yards away.

When the alarm was sounded Oric Priest, a war veteran, and Clarence Johnson, a young farmer, tied wet towels over their faces, smashed down the front door of the house and crept inside in an effort to locate the woman.

They were forced to abandon their rescue try as the flames mushroomed through the wooden structure.

Townpeople worked with buckets of water to keep the flames from spreading. Other volunteers led work horses from the Green Mountain cottage barn, situated directly behind the Parmenter home.

The Green Mountain cottage is owned by Clyde Davis.

John and Edward Parmenter, who made their home with their mother, arrived at the scene shortly after the house was a mass of flames.

## Firemen Need Masks In Fighting Cellar Blaze

Rutland firemen were obliged to don air masks yesterday to put out a fire in a basement at the home of S. W. Sargent of 260 South Main street, at 4:15 in the afternoon. The cause of the blaze was a flooded oil burner, which was used to heat water.

Arriving at the scene the firemen found that the cellar was filled with thick black smoke, and that the ceiling over the heater was badly scorched. A booster line was used to extinguish the blaze.

## Mendon Fire Extinguished

Rutland Department Answers Second Call in Two Days Outside of City.

For the second time in two days, the Rutland Fire department yesterday responded to a call to a grass fire in Mendon, the second such blaze extinguished by the local firemen outside of the city limits in two days.

The blaze, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Pike, located near the road leading to the Notch, spread over a large area of grass and had set fire to the partitions of the house and of the barn, which was filled with hay and farming equipment. The blaze was checked by the firemen before any serious damage resulted.

On the previous day the department put out a meadow fire near the intersection of Killington avenue near the town-line road in Rutland town, after flames had spread over several acres at the home of Louis Columbus and to the property of Frank Sullivan, being stopped just before they reached a pine grove. In both instances, fire officials said, the grass was ignited from bonfires.

The call yesterday came at 9:45 o'clock. Mr. Pike, who has been seriously ill, in turning in a telephone alarm explained that the flames were spreading rapidly toward his house, and that his health was such that he was powerless to check their progress. Mrs. Pike had exhausted the contents of a rain barrel in her attempt to put the fire out. The blaze had ignited the clapboards of the house at three points and also the barn when the Rutland fire equipment arrived.

Several meadow fires in outlying districts of the city brought inquiries last night from many persons who were fearful of forest fires.



JANUARY 17, 1944

## Fire Engine 3 Suffers Delay Answering Call

Engine No. 3 of the Rutland Fire department, one of three pieces of equipment to answer a telephone alarm sent in from Trinity church, arrived a bit late after becoming involved in minor collisions with three other vehicles parked in the business section yesterday afternoon, causing some property damage but no serious personal injuries.

The incident, which occurred in front of the Vogue shop and the News shop and attracted scores of passers-by to the scene, held up the progress of the truck for little more than five minutes. The other equipment went on to the church where the source of the trouble was found to be a flooded oil burner in a heater in a small room in the rear of the edifice.

Engine 3, according to the police report of the accident, was operated by Fireman George F. Regan. After negotiating the turn just beyond the intersection of Evelyn street and Merchants Row, the truck, apparently skidding on the pavement, struck a parked car owned by Frank Johnson of Bellevue avenue, swinging the sedan around so that it stood parallel with the curbing. Then the engine swerved in toward the curb, striking another parked car owned by Mrs. Norma Beckett of West Rutland, a Rutland hospital nurse. Mrs. Beckett's mother, Mrs. Julia Thompson of Wallace avenue, was sitting in the car at the time of the crash, and told police that she sustained a slight arm injury. She commented, "it's an experience I wouldn't care to have three times a day."

The left front fender of the nurse's car was smashed and the left front headlight broken. The left rear fender and bumper of the Johnson car were damaged.

Another car involved in the collision, according to Chief of Police Harold S. Potter, was that of Robert Chapman of West Rutland, who drove away before the extent of damage to his automobile was ascertained.

Engine 3, known as the "quad" truck, is an all-purpose piece of equipment, carrying a pump, ladders, booster tank and hose. After the truck came to a stop near the curb, the fender of Mrs. Beckett's car pressed against the left front wheel, acting as a brake, and it was necessary to push the vehicles apart before the truck could proceed.

Police Officer Reginald Noe, nearby when the crash occurred, investigated the accident.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltanski reported that damage to the fire engine was approximately five dollars, covering dents in the right front bumper and fender. The siren, jammed in the collision, was repaired by firemen.

front bumper and fender.

## Damage in Store Blaze Estimated at \$1000

Damage in a blaze which crept into a partition of the River street grocery store of James A. Reardon early Monday morning was estimated yesterday by firemen as around \$1000. The blaze, which started from an overheated motor in an ice cream refrigerator, was discovered about 3:45 o'clock and the department was summoned by telephone. The fire soon was under control. The damage included loss of some stock.

Aside from a needless call during the early-afternoon thunderstorm, the firemen were not called out yesterday.

## Fire Hits Grocery

Blaze Damages Food Stocks and Store on Strongs Avenue Early Saturday.

Fire of undetermined origin broke out in the McLaughlin Brothers grocery store at the intersection of Strongs avenue and Clover street early Saturday morning, resulting in damage to the greater part of the stock and to the interior of the building.

A two-tenement dwelling connecting with the store was threatened, but firemen were able to bring the flames, which crept through the partitions, under control, as the two families occupying them were making preparations to leave the building.

The fire department equipment and personnel responded to an alarm at 5:06 o'clock. As Firemen William Donovan and John Kent entered the one-story structure where the store was located, a hot air explosion occurred. The firemen escaped injury but were considerably jarred in the blast, which broke the large glass display windows.

Although no official cause was given for the fire, it was indicated that the flames might have originated in a small stove used to heat the store. The flames ate through the partition on the south side of the store and into the walls of the apartment. It was also necessary to rip out some of the wooden sheath ceiling to put out a fire in sawdust, used as insulation, firemen said.

Two lines of hose were used on the blaze, which was under control at 6:30 o'clock.

James McLaughlin, manager, could not be reached last night to give figures of damage to the building and to the stock of groceries.

The department was called out on two other occasions Saturday. Responding to an alarm from 15 Pine street at 9:25 o'clock, it was discovered that water was gushing from a faucet connected with a pipe which had been frozen earlier in the day. Emergencies of this nature are not in the province of the department.

DECEMBER 4, 1943

## Chimney Causes Firemen Two Calls on Same Day

Damage totalling about \$150 was caused yesterday by a partition blaze caused by a defective chimney at 6 Pine street which started its troublesome day by blazing up at 8:30 in the morning and ended it by firing a partition, causing an alarm from box 18 at 6 o'clock last night which brought out four pieces of fire apparatus.

According to fire officials, their first call to the apartment, which houses three families, occurred early yesterday morning when soot in the chimney caused a "routine" chimney blaze. During the afternoon the chimney was cleaned, and paper was ignited at the base to test the draft. The chimney blazed again and firemen responded again.

Overheated bricks at the second blaze caused the partition to smoulder in the second-floor apartment of George E. Nichols and firemen were forced to open a partition to reach the fire with a booster line from a fire truck. Firemen who found smoke seeping into the apartment called the station, Box 18 was set up from headquarters, and more apparatus arrived. The fire was confined to the partition but smoke damage was considerable.

## Fire Guts Small Home

Serviceman's Wife, Children Lose All Possessions in Freeman Ave. Blaze.

A serviceman's wife and two small children were left homeless Saturday when fire gutted the small one-story house they occupied at 8 1/2 Freeman avenue. The woman, Mrs. Edward Blair and her son, aged four, and daughter, who will be three next month, are staying at the home of a neighbor, Mrs. Richard Burton of 8 Freeman avenue until local Red Cross representatives locate another home for them.

Fire department records list the cause of the blaze, discovered at 2:15 o'clock, as the igniting of clothes which had been hung over an oil range.

Mrs. Blair and her children had gone to the Burton home to see if they had received any mail, ordinarily left there for them by the RFD carrier, when Byron Pollard, uncle of Mrs. Burton, noticed smoke coming from the Blair home and turned in a fire alarm.

All of the clothing, bedding and other furniture of the family were destroyed by the flames, smoke and water. The blaze had gained considerable headway by the time the fire department arrived. It was necessary to lay 1800 feet of hose from the hydrant at the corner of Freeman avenue and Stratton road. The building was gutted throughout. The fire was out at 3:37 o'clock.

There was no insurance either on the building, which is owned by Corp. Bradford McKirryer, serving in the South Pacific, or on the furniture, it was stated.

Mrs. Blair's husband, Pfc. Edward Blair, is stationed at the Newport Army air base in Arkansas.

Mrs. Gladys M. Capron, home service representative for the Rutland county chapter, American Red Cross, is working on arrangements to locate quarters for the family.

The fire trucks were called to Grove and State streets at 6:50 o'clock Saturday morning, when Harvey Fish of this city discovered a fire in his automobile, caused from friction from the emergency brake. He drove the car up to the fire signal box, and turned in alarm No. 46. The blaze was out within a few minutes.

A chimney fire at the home of Albert Johnson of 191 North Main street brought the fire equipment out at 4:35 o'clock Saturday afternoon.

## Firemen Respond to Two Alarms Over Week-End

The Rutland Fire department responded to two alarms during the week-end, no serious damage being reported in either instance. The apparatus was called to the house of Wendall K. Noyes on upper Woodstock avenue about 9:45 o'clock last night when a blaze in the upholstery of a davenport, located in the living room, filled the house with smoke. The firemen were obliged to use a stream from a booster tank to deaden the blaze, before carrying the lounge out of the house. The cause of the fire was not determined.

Soft coal burning in a kitchen range in a downstairs apartment at 163 Granger street was the cause of an alarm at 8:30 o'clock Saturday morning. Firemen found no blaze.

NOVEMBER 17, 1944.

## Dog Survives Fire in Home

Pet of F. T. Hubbard Family Revived With Oxygen After Flames Damage House.

Damage running into a number of hundreds of dollars was caused yesterday afternoon by fire which burned its way out of a clothes closet and damaged partitions of a duplex house at 109 North Main street.

No members of the Donald T. Hubbard family occupying the apartment were at home but their little cocker spaniel, "Nigger," shut in the apartment, inhaled a heavy dose of smoke and carbon monoxide gas and became the first dog ever to merit the use of the local fire department's oxygen inhalator. The spaniel was a pretty sick dog when he was found and firemen, by cupping the inhalator mask to his head with their hands, revived him. "He lapped up the oxygen as if it were just what he wanted," firemen said. "Nigger had a narrow escape."

There was no explanation given for the blaze which destroyed nearly all the clothes of the Hubbard family who had left the house less than an hour before and returned to find fire trucks drawn up before their home and a crowd of people standing around.

The flames broke through to the dining room, searing walls and rafters, and very dense smoke and soot covered walls in nearby rooms. Several partitions were burned out.

Firemen were forced to break through a window and found the smoke so dense that for a moment it was difficult to locate the blaze, according to Deputy Chief Ralph R. Bean. The fire was put out with two booster lines and there was almost no water damage.

OCTOBER 19, 1945.

## Robbins St. Home Afire

Sound of 'Rain' Turns Out to Be Attic Blaze Rousing Pelkey Family.

Members of the family of Richard Pelkey of 118 Robbins street thought they heard the noise of a heavy downpour of rain shortly before 3:30 o'clock yesterday morning and forgot the matter until five minutes later they smelled smoke.

An investigation disclosed that flames were crackling in the attic, and they telephoned the Rutland Fire department. Box alarm 18 was rung from the central fire station at 3:35 o'clock.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltanski said that the fire was due to spontaneous combustion in the attic. The two-story house, occupied by one family, was newly painted and the blaze may have resulted from a paint clot, the chief said.

Damage was caused to the rafters, miscellaneous contents of the attic and to two ceilings on the second floor. Two booster lines were used in putting out the fire.

The second call of the day responded to by the local Fire department came from 85 Davis street at 5:07 o'clock yesterday afternoon. A flooded oil burner was the cause. There was no damage.



# \$6000 Fire in Novak Block Thrills Crowd at Carnival

## Blaze in 3-Story Building Opposite Park Thought to Have Started in Refuse; Rear Part Damaged.

Hundreds of persons gathered at the carnival on Main street park had only to cross the road about 3:30 o'clock yesterday to watch firemen make a swift stop of a full-dress fire which for a time threatened to engulf the "Novak block," at the southeast corner of South Main and Terrill streets. The blaze caused an estimated \$6000 damage.

The flames, which are thought to have started in rubbish at the rear entrance of the big building, raced up the side of the structure, converting it into a wall of fire, and turned back rooms on the top floors into shambles.

All damage was confined to the rear of the building which houses six apartments on the two upper stories, and four stores at street level. Most heavily burned over were back bedrooms and kitchens on the third floor where the fire clung hard, but heat, smoke and water did damage elsewhere, particularly in ground floor stock rooms.

A sidelight or fore-runner to the blaze, is told by Benjamin Johnson, employe at Novak's Creamery, who says he stamped out a blaze which he noticed in a carton at the rear of Lincoln's Grocery store several hours before the main fire.

The ensuing blaze at 3:30 swept up the rear facade and porches of the building in "flash" fashion, quickly caught projecting corners of nearby buildings, and appeared almost uncontrollable as the fire equipment rumbled in and heavy lines were laid.

The first streams of water put out the most superficial part of the fire but it continued to roar around the roof and cornices, making headway into the building. The first fire ladder was laid against the building from Terrill street, and soon three ladders, including the aerial steps of the ladder truck, allowed firemen and callmen to fight the flames from above and from the rear.

Most of the danger to the building was past 10 minutes after firemen got on the scene, but for half an hour the men fought on the fire-weakened third-story porch, the roofedge and from the inside to clean out the tenacious blaze. Acrid smoke, falling brands, the weakened porch structure and the heavy streams of water made it almost a marvel that none of the workers was hurt.

Most seriously burned were the rear rooms of the third-floor apartments occupied by Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Conant and Mrs. Jennie Myatt where bedrooms and rear dining rooms were converted into a shambles and partially burned away.

On the second floor, apartments of Miss Miriam McKenzie and P. F. White were blistered and burned at the east side, while smoke and water pouring down from above damaged plaster and flooring. All belongings in the back rooms were seared and smoking. Water from the kitchen taps came out nearly steaming. White was in Burlington at the time, but Miss McKenzie was in her apartment, and began to move her belongings.

Lindholm's store, which together with the shut-down Whalen drug company, Novak's creamery, a small garage, and Christine's Bake shop, occupy the ground floor, seemed to be the worst hit. A back storeroom, containing paper, stock, and foods was well-blackened and perhaps 100 bags of flour were drenched despite tarpaulins which were put over them. Frank Lindholm, proprietor, stated yesterday that he would be closed down Monday and Tuesday, but expected to re-open Wednesday. Much of the stock was moved during the fire.

At Christine's bakery, where most of the week's products had been sold, some water damage was noted, while damage appeared minor to Novak's Creamery.

A second-floor front apartment occupied by Paul M. Ross and E. J. Fallon, both absent from town, was locked throughout the excitement, but was believed unharmed.

Few occupants were in the building at the time.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, planning to return to work today after a period of illness, was on the spot and was seen on the roof of the building. The chief's official period of rest is not up, according to his doctor. The chief made the estimate of loss.

The building, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Novak, was insured.



Herald Photo.

Flames had nearly eaten away the porch roof at the rear of the Novak block and were still burning in backrooms when this picture was taken yesterday by The Herald photographer. Firemen can be seen at close quarters with the flame and smoke on the third-story porch where they have carried heavy lines. The object coming out the window is a flaming mattress which was being jettisoned to save a bedroom on the third floor. Shortly before this picture was snapped, the fire, which caused an estimated \$6000 damage, completely enveloped the rear of the building.

JUNE 26, 1944.

## Fire Causes Big Loss To Grocery Co.

Rutland Wholesalers Sustain Heavy Damage from Water and Smoke.

Origin Is Unknown

Blaze Starts Near Office of Strongs Ave. Establishment; Hundreds Watch.

A fire of brief duration but great intensity last night caused loss running into thousands of dollars at the plant of the Rutland Grocery company, inc., at 43 Strongs avenue, a large quantity of merchandise being ruined. Much of the loss was due to smoke and water which found its way into a basement filled with valuable stock.

The origin of the fire, which was confined to the northeast section of the main building, is not known. Patrick F. Howley, of Pleasant street, treasurer of the company, had left the building an hour before the alarm was sounded and noticed no smoke, he stated.

The flames were confined to the main floor of the one-story brick building under which there are two basements. The main floor houses the office and principal storage rooms but water also reached large quantities of cereal, flour, sugar and paper products stored in the space below.

The business district fire attracted more than a thousand spectators to the scene. For more than an hour curbs on Strongs avenue, Madison street and Wales street were lined with people watching the firemen work.

Called a few minutes after 8 o'clock by an alarm from box 37, firemen, using every piece of apparatus available, had the blaze under control in about 20 minutes but smoke rose skyward long afterward and it was necessary to pour water into the building for some time after the blaze was squelched.

It is expected that a substantial part of the canned goods, which comprised the bulk of the merchandise in the subbasement, can be reclaimed despite the fact that water poured into that area in great quantity. Salvage covers were placed over all perishable merchandise by firemen as soon as they could be spared from fighting the blaze.

Most of the firm's important records and documents were saved, according to Harrie E. Burton, vice president of the company.

Deputy Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean, acting in the place of Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, who was away, said that a huge column of dense smoke burst through the building's skylight as the trucks approached the scene of the fire.

Attacking the blaze at the point of its apparent source—in the vicinity of the office section—firemen smashed a large window in the office and cut holes in the roof to get at the center of the fire. At the same time hose was laid through doors on the east and south sides of the building, so that the flames could be fought from every possible side.

Firemen quickly stopped the spread of the fire, which was creeping south and west along the main floor, but continued to throw water on it until there was no possibility of its recurring.

## Hot Ashes Blamed For Fire at Poor Farm

Hot ashes, placed in a paper container on the porch of the Rutland city poor farm on Woodstock avenue yesterday afternoon, ignited the paper box and the flames spread from the outside of the building through the partitions on the first and second floors.

Three trucks of the Rutland fire department responded to a telephone alarm at 11:12 o'clock, and the fire was out at 11:47.

Deputy Fire Chief Frank Seward said that although the inmates of the farm were ready to evacuate the building, such a move was not necessary at the time the trucks arrived. The blaze was brought under control immediately, and there was no confusion among the men and women living in the building.

The flames crept from the porch wall into the kitchen of the building and then to an upstairs room through the walls.

JANUARY 29, 1944.

## Firemen Summoned As Blaze Attacks Clothing

Firemen were called out yesterday to extinguish a blaze within a dwelling for the first time in about 10 days. The call came at about 1:30 p. m. from 25 Royce street where clothing hung in a back hall had in some unknown manner caught fire. The extent of damage, firemen said, was a singed wall.

Early yesterday morning one engine was dispatched to put out a rubbish fire at the rear of Melen Brothers garage on Woodstock avenue.

JANUARY 2, 1945

## Quick Flop Into Puddle Saves Burns

What firemen described as a "bellyflop" in a rain puddle, yesterday afternoon averted painful burns to Richard Cota, 17, employed at Dikeman's garage at 53 Chestnut avenue, when, he told officials, his clothing caught fire after a pipe he had been smoking fell into a shallow pan of gasoline, spattering the flaming liquid on his wearing apparel, and on the wall of the garage.

Cota's action in rushing from the building into the rain outside and lying flat in a pool of water, completely extinguished the flames on his clothing. Meanwhile the fire crept from the front wall on the first floor of the barn which houses the garage to the outside partition on the second story. The blaze was confined by firemen to the front of the building.

Box alarm 114 was sounded, bringing regular firemen on their day off, and call firemen, some of them from their New Year's dinners, to the scene.

There was a considerable amount of smoke in the building, which stands in the rear of the Dikeman residence. The garage is operated by George Dikeman.

Careless smoking was listed by fire officials as the cause of the blaze.



## Grass Fire No. 1 Occurs

First of Season Here Destroys Boys' Shack on Columbian Avenue.

The spring season "officially" opened for the Rutland Fire department yesterday afternoon at 2:53 o'clock when an alarm was turned in for a grass fire at 235 Columbian avenue. It was grass fire No. 1 for 1944.

Equipped to fight a blaze of this type the service truck and a crew from the department responded. Arriving at the scene of the fire on the east side of Columbian avenue back of the Watkins avenue school, it was discovered that a boys' shack was also ablaze, and a call was sent in for more assistance. Two ladder trucks responded.

The shanty, which the firemen found to be well constructed and locked up tight, was located back of the home of Bocco Flory, and was built by Joe and Alfred Flory. It was made of heavy planks and creosoted tar covered the roof, from which rose volumes of black smoke.

The fire fighters found it necessary to break the heavy lock on the shanty, but were unable to save from destruction the contents which included chairs, a table, an old victrola and a number of phonograph records.

## Smoke, No Fire

All city fire apparatus and a crowd of onlookers quickly gathered on Merchants Row about 8 o'clock last night when smoke, detected in the Woolworth department store, was the signal for an alarm from seldom-rung Box 47 in Depot square.

There was plenty of smoke, but no fire, according to firemen who found a burned-out motor in the basement refrigeration plant as the source of the alarm. Most of the apparatus returned immediately, and the crowd, including many well-satisfied tenants of business places who had rushed to the scene, quickly dispersed.

## Firemen Quell Three Blazes Over Week-End

A flooded oil furnace in the basement of the Eitapence block at 36 Center street brought out the Rutland Fire department Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. The basement, located under the pool room and hat cleaning shop operated by Joseph Colodonato, was filled with smoke. The fire however, was confined to the furnace. Firemen turned off the oil and put out the blaze.

At 10:45 o'clock the same morning the department was called to a tenement house at 136 Stronga avenue to extinguish a chimney fire.

Boys smoking in the building was given by the owner as the cause of a fire in a garage in the rear of a house at 15 Killington avenue, owned by Mrs. Mary McGarry, which occurred shortly after 12 o'clock that noon. Furniture and other items which had been stored in the building were damaged. The fire was of a "flash" nature, firemen said. The booster lines were used in combating the blaze.

## Burned Man In Hospital

War Worker Injured as Early Morning Blaze Does \$1000 Damage to Home.

Fire of undetermined origin which early yesterday morning caused damage of more than \$1000 to the frame house owned and occupied by the family of Joseph E. Gemo at 146 State street, resulted in injury to Ernest Lapierre, 45, a war worker, who lived in the upstairs apartment.

At the Rutland hospital last night, Lapierre was under care of Dr. Hugh H. Hanrahan for first degree burns to his face, neck and arms, sustained when he was attempting to take clothing and valuables from the burning house. His wife was also under the doctor's

care for shock, at the home of neighbors.

Members of the Durivage family of 23 Baxter street, who live opposite the Gemo house at the intersection of State and Baxter streets, noticed flames and smoke coming from the building about 5:15 o'clock yesterday morning. Chief Alfred H. Koltonski last night credited their action in awakening occupants of the burning house with saving lives and more serious property damage.

The greater part of the fire damage was confined to the upstairs apartment, and to the rear of the house. Three lines of hose were laid by the fire department, responding to a telephone alarm, and salvage covers were placed over the furniture. The occupants of the house, Joseph Gemo and his daughter, Miss Mary Gemo, on the first story, and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lapierre, escaped from the house in their night clothing. Firemen said that Lapierre was attempting to salvage clothing and furniture when he was burned.

Damage to furniture, walls and ceiling in the Gemo apartment was caused mostly by water and smoke. The upstairs and downstairs sheds and the kitchen in the upper apartment were destroyed by the blaze.

Firemen gave Lapierre first aid, and Dr. Hanrahan, who was summoned, took him to the hospital.

## Two Burned As Blazing Grease Spills From Pan

Two men received minor but painful burns yesterday shortly after noon when a pan of grease which caught fire at 17½ Cottage street caused a brief fire which burned a quantity of bedding, but was nearly extinguished before the arrival of firemen. It was one of five alarms answered by firemen over the week-end.

Edward J. Wynne, occupant of a second-story apartment, was burned first when he attempted to move the pan of burning grease from the kitchen. It fell from his hands and skidded into a bedroom where it set fire to bedclothes, according to Assistant Chief Ralph Bean.

Another apartment owner in the building W. P. Hayes, was also burned about the hands as he aided in putting out the fire.

Firemen, called by telephone, applied first aid to Wynne who had burns on his hands and face, as well as to Hayes.

The cold snap brought several other calls for firemen as heating plants were given their first test of the season. There was an early morning chimney fire on Saturday at 202 South Main street and another chimney blaze late in the afternoon at 9 Freeman avenue. An oil burner call at 90 Plain street was answered shortly afterwards. Yesterday afternoon, an overheated stovepipe at 98 Brown street caused an alarm.

## Firemen Twice Called To Same Blazing Chimney

The Rutland Fire department equipment and personnel made two trips to the Hulett block on Merchants Row yesterday to extinguish a chimney fire in the section occupied by the Killington Glove Manufacturing company. The fire was caused by creosote burning in the chimney which was solidly plugged, firemen said.

A coal-burning heater which heats the plant, connects with the chimney where the blaze was located. The trucks were called out at 2:10 o'clock, and the three large pieces of equipment attracted much attention in the center of the business district. The firemen went to the building for the second time at 4 o'clock, and removed a part of the chimney, rather than take a chance on letting the creosote burn off naturally.

The fire was the first in the city since October 4 when the trucks were called to a blaze at 45 Evergreen avenue.

## Firemen Get Varied Calls

Truck Driver Revived With Inhalator, 4 Fires Put Out, Cat Rescued.

Responding to a series of six calls over the holiday week-end, the Rutland Fire department carried out a variety of services, ranging in nature from reviving a truck driver rendered unconscious by carbon monoxide fumes to removing a cat from a high tree where it had been imprisoned for three days.

The first call for special service came from the Duffy Coal yard on West street at 11:50 o'clock Saturday morning when Jack Cioffi, a truck driver, was found unconscious in a shed where he had been repairing the front of a truck. The motor had been left running, and the workman was overcome by the gas.

A group of firemen working with an inhalator revived the man. He was also attended by Dr. F. E. Quigley, who ordered his removal to the Rutland hospital in an ambulance. Later in the day he was discharged from the institution.

At 12:50 o'clock Saturday morning the trucks and personnel of the department responded to a call from 262 West street, where wooden blocks which formed the base of a heater became ignited. The firemen removed the burning wood, and built up a base of bricks for the stove. There was no damage reported.

At 7:40 o'clock Saturday night the firemen extinguished a chimney fire at 111 Church street. The explosion of an oil furnace in a garage owned by G. Cacciopoli, and operated by R. C. King, at 38 Forest street, brought out the trucks at 10:53 o'clock Saturday night. The booster line was used to put out the fire, practically confined to the area where the furnace was located.

The first call on Christmas Day came at 1:25 o'clock yesterday morning to put out a fire in an overstuffed chair, apparently ignited by a cigarette, at the home of R. T. Ballard of Avenue A. The fire and smoke were discovered by the family on their return from a midnight church service, and the chair was carried out of doors. There was some damage also to a rug, firemen said.

At 3:15 o'clock yesterday morning the department put out a fire in a basement at 7 Cottage street, caused by an overheated electric motor.

The plight of an unhappy cat, which had spent three discouraging days in the branches near the top of a tall tree in front of a house at 194 South Main street, was relieved by fireman at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. It was necessary to use a 75-foot aerial ladder in order to reach the cat.

FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 23, 1944

## Pedestrian Smells Smoke, Finds Chair, Drapery in His Home Afire

C. S. Richardson, walking toward his apartment at 107½ Library avenue shortly after 1:30 o'clock yesterday morning, smelled smoke and wondered which one of his neighbor's homes was on fire.

Other than the smell, there was no immediate signs so he went on. Opening his front door, he found the living-room filled with smoke. Investigation proved that an overstuffed chair was ablaze and he

called out the fire department. The chair and surrounding furnishings, including window curtains, drapes and doilies, were destroyed and the window casings and wall were scorched. A booster line was used by the firemen and the burning chair removed from the building, which is owned by M. H. Pratt. A smoldering cigarette is believed to have been the cause of the blaze.

## Two Small Blazes In Business Section Doused

The Rutland Fire department responded to two calls in the business district yesterday. The first, at 8:30 o'clock in the morning, was to put out a blaze caused by burning grease on a range in the back kitchen of the Howe Coffee shop. The operations of the firemen did not interrupt patrons eating breakfast.

At 3:35 o'clock yesterday afternoon firemen extinguished a small rubbish fire in the rear of the News shop on Merchants Row. It was believed that the blaze was set by children, and police are making an investigation.



## Overheated Chimney At Bottling Works Sets Beams Afire

An overheated brick chimney at the Day Bottling Works on Howe street last night resulted in an alarm which sent three Rutland Fire department trucks and the fire fighting personnel from the Central station to the scene at 8:45 o'clock.

The fire, which caused small damage, was discovered by a neighbor who saw smoke, which had crept up through the partitions, coming from eaves in the roof. The chimney, which leads from a big hot water heater used in sterilizing beverage bottles, had become intensely hot, igniting the floor beams which came in contact with it.

Kendrick E. Day of Edgerton street, proprietor of the bottle

works and a call fireman, was summoned by the neighbor who saw the smoke. He telephoned the fire department and at the same time box alarm 35 was sounded.

The trucks returned to the station at 7:15 o'clock.

APRIL 10, 1945.

## Police Probe False Alarm

Seek Persons Responsible for  
Early Morning Call From  
Box 27.

Rutland police yesterday were conducting an investigation to ascertain the persons responsible for a false fire alarm sounded 34 minutes after midnight yesterday, which called the department to the vicinity of Temple and North Main streets.

Because the Old Ladies' home is in that locality, four trucks responded when box 27 was turned in. Neighbors reported to officials that they saw three boys near the firm alarm box, one of them on a bicycle. A description of the boys was given to the police.

There were five other fires during the day. Causing the most widespread interest was a blaze at 4 Merchants Row at 5:15 o'clock last night, originating from the burning of rubbish by occupants of the two-family house. The fire spread along some grass to a garage in the rear of the home of Mrs. A. J. Gould at 21 Cottage street, which is back of the Merchants Row house. A call was turned in and two pieces of fire-fighting equipment went to Merchants Row while a Cottage street resident also turned in an alarm on box 43, responded to by the truck from station 2 on Center street, and engine 4, usually held in reserve, to the same fire.

The most serious grass fire of the day was at 12:46 o'clock in the afternoon in the vicinity of Plain street in a field near the Rutland railroad tracks, where firemen battled for 45 minutes to extinguish the blaze roaring through tall grass. Other grass fires put out were in the forenoon, in the "Baxter bowl" on Grove street, across the road from the former Crestwood hotel; in the afternoon at 15 James street, and in Allen's grove, a wooded section near Pearl street.

MARCH 5, 1945.

## Dog Again Overcome

Pet, Resuscitated After Fire  
Last Fall, Affected by Smoke  
From 2d Fire.

"Nigger," a small black cocker spaniel dog belonging to Donald T. Hubbard of 109 North Main street, whose life the firemen saved with an inhalator last November when fire damaged the family home, was again nearly overcome by smoke yesterday.

Summoned to the house by telephone at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon, firemen found a pile of clothing in a shed attached to the rear of the building, ablaze. The flames had found their way to a stairway leading to the second story of the house and were consuming the lower treads.

After the men had extinguished the fire with streams from two booster lines, they found the dog under a table in the kitchen. It was feeble from inhaling smoke but was able to walk about on being taken into the open air.

Firemen were at loss to account for the origin of the blaze.

On the previous occasion the seat of the flames was a clothes closet inside the house. The dog was unconscious from inhaling carbon monoxide gas and smoke when found and was resuscitated with some difficulty.

The Hubbard fire yesterday caused one of seven calls which the local department answered after a lull of nearly a week.

At 11:20 a. m. the men were called to Killington avenue where an automobile belonging to P. Proctor of Springfield was, apparently, on fire. It was found that there was a lot of smoke and no blaze. No damage was done. Another automobile "fire" called the department to Union street at 1:32 o'clock, again no damage was caused. The car which was in trouble belongs to Emily A. Margo.

The firemen were called twice yesterday to a three-family house at 166 Granger street, owned by Mrs. G. M. Maroney, to put out chimney fires. A whistle alarm was turned in at 1:05 o'clock from Box 65 and the men were summoned by telephone at 5:07. No damage resulted in either case.

Hardly had the trucks returned to the central station, when there was another call from the lower end of the Rutland Railroad yard where a fire was in progress in a small toolhouse. The blaze, believed to have been started accidentally by boys, caused no serious loss.

At 9:40 last night the truck responded to a call from the Town of Rutland, extinguishing a partition fire in the home on the Pittsford road occupied by Mary Lewis, at the former site of the Cheney Hill school. The blaze did slight damage to one room, it is reported.

MARCH 30, 1945.

## Grass Fire Danger Cited

Careless Setting of Blazes En-  
dangers All Property, Raises  
Costs, Chief Says.

With grass fires in Rutland continuing at an alarming rate Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski pointed out yesterday the cost to the city and the seriousness of the situation in recent days when most of the fire equipment was fighting grass fires the city was virtually defenseless in the event of a serious fire. He also stated that offenders setting fires that cause damage may be imprisoned not over 60 days nor less than 30 days or fined not more than \$100 nor less than \$10.

In conjunction with this law the offenders who have been guilty recently of ringing in false alarms the chief said that he and Police Chief Harold S. Potter have a list of offenders and that some of them have been interviewed and will be dealt with.

Each time a fire truck is called out to extinguish a grass fire the cost is \$2.66 just for gasoline, oil and repairs according to Chief Koltonski. Last year the department responded to 126 grass fires which cost the city \$335.16. To date this year the department has been called out 62 times for grass fires costing the city, on the 1944 cost per fire basis, \$164.92.

The first call made yesterday morning by the department was at Stowell's garage on South Main street caused by an oil heater. All other calls were for extinguishing grass fires with the exception of a chimney fire at 85 North street and a call early today at 109 Granger street where a divan fire was put out.

The following grass blazes were put out yesterday: Columbian avenue, Vernon street and Lincoln avenue, Buffum's meadow, Rotary field, Harrington avenue, Strongs avenue, 151 Woodstock avenue, Crestwood on Grove street, Calvary cemetery, Meadow street, Box 38, Jackson avenue and East street, West street, opposite Smith Lumber company, Lincoln avenue by the sawmill, West street opposite old cemetery, Tremont street.

AUGUST 24, 1945.

## Children, Plus Matches, Given Blame for Fire

Children playing with matches was listed as the cause of a small fire in the basement of a barn and garage in the rear of St. Peter's school and rectory yesterday afternoon.

The fire department was called to the scene at 4:15 o'clock, and firemen found hay chaff burning in an opening beneath the structure. The fire had been smoldering considerably, and was quickly extinguished.

The firemen were called to Young's Spring and Welding Works on West street near East creek yesterday morning to put out a rubbish fire on the premises.

Booster lines were used at both places.

## 13th Fire Call False

Local Department Has Busiest  
Day of Year With Final  
Alarm a Fake.

The Rutland fire department had its busiest day of the year yesterday as the firemen were called out 13 times, 11 calls being made to extinguish grass fires, and one for an automobile blaze. The 13th call of the day was a false alarm. Damage from the grass fires resulted in but one case, a call at 3:50 o'clock in the afternoon at the residence of John Romano at 91 First street where the fire had gotten out of control and burned through the clapboards into a partition of the house. The auto blaze occurred at 7:53 last night on Grove street.

The false alarm was rung in from Box 61 at the corner of Forest street and Convent avenue. Chief Albert H. Koltonski said last night that an attempt is being made to locate the offender and prosecution will be made. He pointed out not only the seriousness of needlessly calling out the equipment but also the dangerous condition during the busy season created by having the trucks away.

Other runs made during the day to extinguish grass fires were: Seabury street at 12:06 in the afternoon; Woodstock avenue, 12:37; Temple street, 1:08; Forest street, 2:30; Clinton avenue, 4:05; Spruce street, 5:03; West street, 5:25; Howard avenue, 6:08; Wallace avenue, 7:12.

The alarm for the Forest street fire was sounded from Box 73 at the Smith Lumber company but was for a grass blaze further down the street.

## Hot Motor Makes Smoke

Discovery by Policeman Re-  
sults in One of Six Fire  
Alarms of Day.

A police officer on the night "beat" in the business section discovered smoke in Shangraw's pharmacy at 58 Center street at 1:30 o'clock yesterday morning, and turned in a call for the Fire department, the first of six alarms for the day and one of two in the business district.

The firemen found an overheated electric motor in the refrigeration system. Damage was light.

The second call of the day was at 1:23 o'clock in the afternoon, a chimney fire at 129 South street. At 3:22 in the afternoon the fire fighters were summoned by Deer street residents to put out a grass fire on Deer street near Highland avenue.

At 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon a grass fire which threatened a public garage on Merchants Row, and which burned over an area in the rear of the building, was extinguished by the fire department. The situation was made serious by the presence of drums of oil in the vicinity, firemen stated.

Two other calls late in the day were for a grass fire at 4:03 o'clock at 94 State street and a dump fire at Stratton road and Curtis venue at 4:22 o'clock.



JANUARY 19, 1945

## Many Watch 'Small Fire

Defective Chimney Blamed for  
Blaze at Willow and Edson  
Streets.

A defective chimney was given by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski as the cause of a fire in the building occupied by Burke's garage and the Grand Furniture company at 102 Willow street at 4:20 o'clock yesterday afternoon, attracting the attention of scores of persons in the business section.

The blaze started in the partition between the garage and the furniture store, on the ground floor, plaster having fallen away from between the bricks leaving an opening through which sparks escaped, igniting the floor joists, according to firemen. The partition was set afire, the flames creeping up to the second floor and spreading along the wallboard ceiling.

In addition to the damage to the building, estimated in the vicinity of \$50, there was considerable damage by smoke to the furniture stock on the first and second floors of the Union Furniture company of which Irving Godnick is proprietor.

The trucks responded to a telephone alarm, after which box No. 43 was sounded on the signal system, calling out the equipment from station No. 2, and call firemen. The first truck to reach the scene was routed along Merchants row and West streets to Willow.

At a time when all available equipment was needed at once in efforts to prevent the flames from spreading to nearby business establishments, Fire Chief Koltonski said, the big ladder truck from the Central station, proceeding along Wales street in the vicinity of the stop light at the intersection of Center street, was held up for several minutes by a traffic jam.

Involved in the tie-up were two large passenger busses, one parked in front of a filling station, and the other proceeding toward the same destination, also a power shovel being used by city workmen in the removal of snow near the east curbing, cars parked on both sides of the road and about 10 automobiles attempting to move north and south.

Failure of motorists to give right of way to fire fighting equipment has created considerable difficulty in recent months, fire authorities said last night.

## Small Basement Blaze Fills Bank With Smoke

The Fire department was called out last night at 9 o'clock to a fire which caused considerable excitement but little damage in the basement of the Rutland Savings bank building on the corner of Merchants Row and Center street.

According to department officials the blaze started in a pile of rubbish in the basement of Howley Brothers Sportings Goods store at 18 Center Street.

A booster line was used to extinguish the blaze which was not large, but a considerable amount of smoke entered the store and bank premises.

## Fire Guts Car Shop

Damage Estimated at \$15,000  
as Blaze Sweeps Big Brick  
Railroad Structure.

Flames said to have been caused when a spark from a workman's cutting torch ignited oil-soaked sawdust on the floor and immediately flashed to the walls and rafters of the building yesterday morning caused damage of \$15,000 to the big brick structure housing the Rutland Railroad car shop, and to four large wooden cars in the shop for repairs.

A group of workmen escaped possible death or serious injury from burns as the fire flared through the building at 8:30 o'clock yesterday morning. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski stated that quick action by the railroad workers in playing streams of water on the blaze assisted in averting a more serious fire. After the arrival of the fire department five lines of hose were used in combating the flames, the largest amount of equipment used in many months.

The fire was one of the most spectacular in the city in a long period, the flames for a time bursting skyward through the cupolas. The blaze was out at 11 o'clock.

William E. Navin, trustee of the Rutland Railroad, said yesterday that he believed that damage to the building was largely confined to the roof and doors, and the mill room and the storeroom were saved by the efforts of the fire-fighters. However, three large freight cars which had just been repaired in the shop, and a caboose, also under repair, as well as tools, were damaged extensively. He estimated the entire loss to be in the vicinity of \$15,000, but added that a complete appraisal had not been completed.

The fire department was called out at 8:55 o'clock last night to 47 South Main street to extinguish a blaze in the basement which started when a small box under an oil barrel became ignited. George Ward and A. Sedileau are occupants of the house. No damage resulted, according to department officials.

JUNE 7, 1945

## Fire Damage Put at \$500

Upper Part of Creek Rd. House  
Destroyed by Blaze; No One  
Home at Time.

Damage estimated at \$500 was caused to a house on the Creek road occupied by Edward McPhee early yesterday afternoon. The upper part of the house, including two bedrooms, furnishings and a clothes press containing family clothing were destroyed.

Careless smoking, apparently by dropping a burning cigarette onto the mattress of a crib, was given by firemen as the cause of the blaze. There was no one in the house at the time the trucks were called to the scene by neighbors.

Mrs. McPhee and a small child had left the house a short time earlier. The woman told firemen that she had not been upstairs in her home since morning, and that inasmuch as she had been burning rags outside of the house she did not detect the odor of the burning mattress. The house is owned by D. Cobb, and is located on the west side of the Creek road a short distance south of Dorr bridge.

JANUARY 28, 1945

## Church Hit By Blaze

2 Firemen Nearly Overcome  
by Smoke Fighting Flames  
in Edifice.

Two members of the Rutland Fire department, George Ferguson and Martin Kelly, were nearly overcome by smoke, and several hundred dollars worth of damage resulted from a fire caused by an overheated chimney in the basement of the Advent Christian church on West street, near Wales street. The blaze broke out about 9:15 o'clock yesterday morning.

The firemen, responding to treatment with an inhalator, were back on duty yesterday afternoon.

Many parishoners of the church, unaware that the fire had occurred, appeared for the morning service at 10:45 o'clock.

The stained glass windows had been smashed to afford ventilation when the auditorium became so filled with smoke that it was almost impossible for the firemen to see inside of the structure.

According to Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, the fire broke out in the wall back of a large heater in the Sunday school room. It was believed that wood had been placed on a coal fire to give added heat, as the mercury hovered about the zero mark. A furnace in the rear of the room provides heat for the main auditorium.

The flames ate through the wall partition onto the joists supporting a portion of the main floor. There was considerable smoke damage to the church auditorium, its walls, windows and furnishings.

The blaze was discovered by Charles Hitchcock of Strongs avenue, janitor, who notified the Rev. Gerald A. Aulis, pastor, who lives next door and who telephoned the fire department. By the time the fire fighting equipment had arrived the pastor and janitor had connected a hose and were attempting to put out the fire.

Box alarm 41 at the intersection of West and Wales streets brought out call firemen, and the staff of Station No. 2. Two booster lines and two small hose lines were used in playing water on the blaze. Damage from water was kept at a minimum. The fire was out at 10:30 o'clock.

The Rev. Aulis, who has been pastor of the church for only a few months, said last night that temporary repairs will be completed as rapidly as possible.

As soon as he learned of the fire, the Rev. Harvey D. Butterfield, rector of Trinity Episcopal church, offered to the members of the Advent Christian church the facilities of Trinity chapel, nearby on West street. The pastor accepted and the evening service ordinarily held at the Advent Christian church was last night held at the Episcopal chapel instead. The Rev. Aulis expressed gratitude last night also to the pastors and officers of the Baptist and Methodist churches, who also offered the use of their church buildings to the members of the Advent Christian congregation.

Yesterday afternoon Arthur A. Houston, Rutland contractor, was directing the work of boarding up the shattered stain glass windows. If the stained glass cannot be replaced now, the pastor said that frosted glass will be used instead.

The church building is believed to have been erected when the church was organized here in March, 1897. The damage caused by the fire is said to be covered by insurance.

Tenants of an apartment house at 48 West street, many of them awakened from sleep, were obliged to flee from the building at 10:50 o'clock Saturday night, to escape the temporary danger of fire and escaping illuminating gas in the rooms occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Norton and children.

According to Chief Koltonski, the fire started in the kitchen of the Norton apartment, when flames of undetermined origin burned away a shelf supporting a small top-burner gas stove on which rested an oven. As the shelf burned away the stove and oven fell to the floor, smashing the connecting gas pipe. The fire department responded to a telephone alarm, and box 23, at Lincoln avenue and West street was sounded, bringing out call firemen. When firemen arrived they turned off the gas supply of the house. The partitions near the gas stove in the kitchen were burned, as was a pile of paper being saved for salvage. The fire was confined to a small area in the Norton apartment kitchen.

The apartment house, owned by Dr. Gerhart T. Beck, is located only a short distance from the Advent Christian church on West street, where fire broke out the following morning.

Yesterday afternoon, the fire department, responding to the third call of the week-end, extinguished a chimney blaze at 8 Clover street.

MARCH 9, 1945.

## Seed House Hit by Fire

Season's First Grass Blaze  
Spreads to Park St. Building; Damage Put at \$1500.

The city's first grass fire of the season spread disastrously yesterday afternoon and resulted in damage of approximately \$1500 to the main building of Baker's Seed house at 117 Park street. The estimate of loss was made by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski.

The blaze originated in a meadow on the south side of Park street. Fanned by a west wind, it quickly extended over an area of more than a half mile, igniting the wooden structure which houses the office and storehouse of the Baker concern. The north end of the two-story structure was completely destroyed and collapsed.

Firemen were able to save more than half of the building, as well as two greenhouses, attached to the main building, each of which extended back 200 feet. According to the fire chief, greenhouse tools kept on the first floor of the burned portion and furniture stored on the second floor all were destroyed.

Two lines of hose attached to a nearby hydrant were used to play water on the flames. A number of spectators who ventured beyond the fire lines were drenched.

The telephone alarm was sent in at 3:51 o'clock, after which firemen set up a box alarm to summon call firemen. The blaze was out at 5:50 o'clock.

The building where the fire occurred is located approximately 200 feet from the street and in the rear of the house occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Branchaud and family. The Baker Seed house, which has been in business in the city for more than a half century, is owned by Mrs. William Ellwood and Miss Ima Baker.

Heavy traffic at the scene was directed by Police Chief Harold S. Potter and Officer Alfred Dutelle.



## Four Fires, All Small, Doused On Week-End

The Rutland Fire department responded to four alarms in the city over the week-end.

Hundreds of down-town shoppers were attracted to the scene of a small blaze in Ruth's Dinette, at the corner of West and Cottage streets, Saturday afternoon.

All of the city's fire fighting equipment responded to the alarm from box 43, sounded when the blaze in the eating place, located next to the A&P Super Market, was discovered. Firemen said that the fire was caused by burning grease in a range in the kitchen.

Pillars of black smoke rose from the building for a few minutes and swirled over the business district. The fire department responded to the call at 4:48 o'clock and the blaze was out at 5:07 o'clock. Several police officers were on duty at the scene, directing traffic.

Two other fires were put out by the department on Saturday. The first, a chimney blaze at 149 Granger street at 9:45 o'clock in the morning and the second confined to a chicken coop in the rear of the home of Mrs. Jane Johnson of 25 Williams street at 3:23 o'clock in the afternoon. The chicken house was destroyed. The blaze was caused by a bonfire nearby.

The only call answered by the department yesterday was in response to a call from box 39, at 120 Strongs avenue, a tenement building where a chimney fire was put out. The building is owned by James F. McLaughlin.

NOVEMBER 6, 1945

## Fire During Parade Is Put Out Promptly

A telephone call to the fire department late yesterday afternoon necessitated the turning in of a whistle alarm in order to attract firemen participating in the General Wing parade to the scene of a basement fire in the apartment building at 137 Grove street.

The department had planned for such an emergency by retaining one truck and crew at Station 1. They immediately answered the call and were quickly reinforced by others of the department.

Two booster lines and a hydrant hose connection were used to extinguish the fire, which re-kindled later in the evening and had to be put out again.

The fire was believed to have started by inflammable matter being too near the fire box of the furnace. Firemen reported flame and smoke damage to the cellar and to the first floor apartment of Richard Wall.

Mrs. M. Patterson, a resident of the building, suffered from shock in the excitement and was given first aid by firemen, who used an oxygen inhalator in reviving her.

A chimney fire at 131 State street 7:50 yesterday morning also was extinguished by the department.

OCTOBER 6, 1945.

## Invalid Saved From Blaze

Woman Rescued From Early Morning Fire Through Window of Stratton Road Home.

Mrs. Edith C. McDonald, 54, of the Stratton road, an invalid unable to walk, was rescued from her smoke-filled bedroom and carried to safety through a window, as flames early yesterday morning swept through her two and a half story home on Stratton road at Killington avenue.

Mrs. McDonald was taken to the home of Mrs. Guy E. Townsend, a neighbor, where she was treated by Dr. J. M. MacDonald for cuts on her arms and legs received from the jagged edges of broken glass in the window, which had been smashed from the outside in order to gain access to her room. She also suffered from having inhaled a considerable amount of smoke.

Firemen received a telephone alarm at 5:25 o'clock, and set up the transmitter Box 38 at 5:35 o'clock, summoning call firemen and members of the department on their day off.

The flames, fire officials said, originated from a hot water oil heater in the basement and had gained considerable headway before they were discovered. Mrs. Doris Guerton, who lives with her mother, Mrs. McDonald, on the first floor of the house, said that they were awakened by a noise in the basement, which gave warning of the fire. The flames swept rapidly up through the partitions into the attic, air ducts leading to the furnace supplying a flue.

Max Brown, tenant on the second floor, attempted to enter the room where Mrs. McDonald was trapped, but could not reach the inside door.

Running outside of the house, Brown smashed in the glass of the window in the invalid's first floor bedroom, and with the assistance of a neighbor and firemen who arrived carried Mrs. McDonald from the smoke-filled bedroom, lowered her five feet to the ground and then carried her to the Townsend home. The rescue work had been started when firemen arrived.

Later in the day Mrs. McDonald was moved to the home of William McDonald of 385 West street, where she was resting comfortably last night. Mrs. McDonald has been crippled with arthritis for a long period, relatives said.

Firemen were obliged to rip out partitions on the first and second floors in order to bring the blaze under control. There was also considerable damage by water. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltanski estimated damage at near \$2000.

Dr. Williams stated yesterday that although the exact amount of the damage caused by the fire had not been officially estimated, it would run into thousands of dollars.

Yesterday afternoon at 4:40 o'clock, the fire department was called to 62 Cleveland avenue to extinguish a chimney fire and went out once again, this time during the storm, at 9 p. m. for a chimney fire at the corner of Stratton road and Killington avenue.

DECEMBER 28, 1944.

## Fire Guts Big Garage

Six-Car Structure and Unoccupied Apartment on Tenney Brook Court Burn.

Damage running into thousands of dollars resulted early yesterday morning when fire gutted a six-car garage and an unoccupied apartment attached to the structure, in the Tenney Brook court settlement on North Main street, owned by Dr. Robert P. Williams, Rutland surgeon, who lived a short distance east of the scene of the blaze.

Two automobiles, left in the garage by tenants of surrounding cottages on the court, were badly damaged, according to firemen. The cars were owned by Gordon Allison, who is employed by the Rutland Electric Products division, and by the Rutland Grocery company. The latter car is used by James F. Farrell, who lives on the court, and who is a sales representative for the grocery concern.

Another tenant, Frank Prieur, who usually puts his car in the garage, had driven home late and left the automobile outside of his house, instead of putting it in the garage.

The fire was discovered at 5:30 o'clock by Farrell, whose bedroom is only 20 feet from the garage, and who was awakened by the intense heat. He telephoned the fire department, and last night praised the quick work of the telephone operator on duty at the time. He said that the flames had by that time gained considerable headway. Clad in pajamas, bathrobe and slippers he ran out to investigate. He summoned Allison, but the two men failed in attempts to take their cars from the burning building.

The Rutland fire department arrived within a few minutes. An attempt to bring call firemen to assist in putting out the fire was made by ringing in the box alarm at the corner of North and North Main streets. The signal for that vicinity is 25. However, with the temperature at four degrees below zero, the action of frost had impaired the mechanism and a series of confusing whistle blasts were sounded. A telephone call to the central fire station brought out the correct signal on the downtown apparatus, and a good representation of call firemen and regular department members who were off duty responded.

Water was pumped, because of low pressure, from the hydrant at the corner of Field avenue and North Main street. Lines of hose were laid across the main highway and for a time traffic was detoured over Vernon street and Lincoln avenue.

As the fire gained headway there was a glare in the sky which attracted many people. As firemen fought the flames tenants of nearby cottages stood about, many of them ready to vacate the premises if necessary. The unoccupied dwelling which was burned had recently been vacated by the family of James W. Crossman.

Deputy Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean said last night that it is believed that the fire was caused when a small kerosene stove, which had been used to heat the garage, stood too close to a wooden partition. The two automobiles were pushed from the burning building by firemen. The trucks returned to the station at 6:50 o'clock.

Dr. Williams stated yesterday that although the exact amount of the damage caused by the fire had not been officially estimated, it would run into thousands of dollars.

Yesterday afternoon at 4:40 o'clock, the fire department was called to 62 Cleveland avenue to extinguish a chimney fire and went out once again, this time during the storm, at 9 p. m. for a chimney fire at the corner of Stratton road and Killington avenue.

AUGUST 12, 1945

## Fires Hit 2 Garages

Nearby Buildings Are Saved as Blazes Nearly Consume Small Structures.

Firemen saved a house and barn from destruction by flames in one of two fires which nearly consumed private garages in the city during the week-end. The damage in the two fires totaled several hundred dollars, firemen estimated.

A telephone summons at 10:35 o'clock yesterday morning took the apparatus to 40 Stratton road, home of George H. Cox and family, where a garage on the rear of the lot was found to be filled with flames. The firemen were obliged to string a line of hose and also used a booster line before the flames were quenched.

Department records stated that the blaze is believed to have been caused by children playing with matches.

The family dwelling and a barn stand within 15 feet of the garage but the men succeeded in keeping the flames from both by playing water on the exteriors.

The department fought a hot fire in a private garage at the rear of the Martin C. Carrigan store, 47 Woodstock avenue, early Saturday afternoon. A telephone call was received at the central station at 1:02 o'clock, followed a few minutes later by a whistle signal from Box 26, North Main street and Woodstock avenue. Firemen found the interior of the wooden building a mass of flames on their arrival.

It was explained that sparks from a bonfire had ignited tar paper on the outside of the building, the fire eating its way into the interior. The garage was used to store crates and boxes and many of these were damaged.

MONDAY MORNING, JULY 9, 1945.

## Blaze Takes Lumber Pile

Damage From Fire at Howe Scale Storage Yard Put at Less Than \$200.

Rutland firemen had a quiet day yesterday after twice being called out Saturday, a lively blaze in a lumber pile at the plant of the Howe Scale company on Strongs avenue being the cause of one summons.

The blaze at the scale plant badly damaged a pile of lumber containing about 2000 board feet and flames were communicated to two other piles. The damage was estimated at under \$200 by Lloyd J. Coleback, vice president and general manager of the plant. The fire is believed to have been due to a spark from a foundry stack.

The department received a telephone call from the plant at 4:30 o'clock. On arriving at the plant department heads saw at once that more help than was immediately available might be needed to cope with the blaze and an alarm was sounded from box 36, near the plant. This brought out call firemen and, with the aid of one stream and a booster line, the fire soon was extinguished.

While all of the city's fire-fighting apparatus was at the manufacturing plant, a call came in from box 63, River and Granger streets, for a chimney fire at 127 Post street and equipment was sent there. The smudge caused no damage.



## Saves Three From Fire

Father Rescues Children by Way of Bedroom Window When Blaze Blocks Door.

Three children were taken by their father to safety through their bedroom window last night about 10 o'clock when a flash fire from an exploded oil heater cut off their escape in a small apartment at 31 Elm street and burned over two rooms before firemen subdued the flames with a booster line.

The home owner, John Cronin, suffered a burned arm when he attempted to carry the flaming heater out into the open. His injury was treated on the scene by firemen.

The children were sleeping in a room off the kitchen when the heater, a small portable model, exploded in the kitchen as Mrs. Cronin was pumping it, according to fire officials. Cronin seized the burner, but in running from the house with it, spilled oil which flared up turning both the kitchen and the living room in front into a mass of flame through which he was unable to re-enter.

Cronin then rushed around to the bedroom window, the only other exit from the chamber, broke it, and helped the youngsters into the open.

Besides the kitchen and living room which were badly scorched, a small part of the bedroom and inside walls of an adjoining apartment occupied by Hugh Thomas were scorched.

Firemen called the blaze a "flash fire" and stated that it swept over the two rooms within a few seconds. Only a prompt telephone call saved a more disastrous fire in the building which contains a number of apartments, officials said.

## Damage \$300 as Fire Guts Shed On Summer St.

Fire of unknown origin destroyed the interior of a shed attached to a two-family dwelling at 30 Summer street about 6:15 o'clock last night, causing an estimated \$300 damage and forcing firemen to lay heavy hose for the first time in about three weeks.

The flames and heat had scorched adjacent halls and stairs in the house and filled upper rooms with smoke by the time it was discovered by a member of the Claude L. Cooke family who was having supper in a room separated only by a short hallway from the shed. Mrs. Cooke stated that she took the snapping of the flames for the noise made by her son, who had gone outside to play with a toy gun.

When the fire trucks arrived, the room and hallway were filled with flames and a call was relayed back to the station to have an alarm set up for Box 18, State and Pine streets. One line of hose was laid.

The shed contained a variety of garden tools, paints and other articles, all of which were destroyed. Blistered paint and a charred hallway were the chief damage inside the house itself.

The second story of the dwelling is occupied by Arthur E. Reynolds.

## Large Area Burns Over

Five- or Six-Acre Grass Fire Threatens for a Time to Spread to Woods.

A grass fire which burned over five or six acres of land in Rutland town at the upper end of Killington avenue yesterday afternoon, required the attention of the Rutland Fire department and scores of volunteer fire fighters, including housewives, for more than an hour yesterday afternoon. The conflagration was checked just before it reached a pine grove, averting a forest fire.

According to Fire Chief A. H. Koltonski, the grass fire resulted from a bonfire on the property of Louis Columbus of Killington avenue in Rutland town, spread across a meadow owned by Frank Sullivan, and then threatened the pine grove in an adjoining woods.

The Rutland Fire department received the call at 3:55 o'clock, and worked with pack pumps at the scene for a full hour. Also fighting the blaze were many neighbors and spectators, who used shovels, brooms and even coats in their efforts to check its spread.

While the firemen were there a call came to extinguish a grass fire on the East Proctor road, beyond the town limits, which could not be answered.

The fire in Rutland town was one of three grass fires extinguished by the local firemen during the day, the others being in a lot on Jefferson street, and on Norton place, where a bonfire had caused a stretch of grass to burn, spreading to Sheldon place.

At 5:50 o'clock yesterday afternoon the trucks were called to a fire at 72 Forest street, where, according to Chief Koltonski, children playing with matches caused a blaze in a partition between a structure formerly used as a store and a garage. The fire was out at 8:18 o'clock.

## Papers By Stove Listed As Tenement Fire Cause

Papers piled too near a kitchen stove became ignited in the upper tenement, occupied by the family of Gordon Waters, at 11 Killington avenue yesterday morning, causing considerable damage by smoke and flames.

According to firemen the fire threatened for a while the lives of two babies, sleeping in a room separated from the kitchen by a hallway, there being no door to cut off the smoke which heavily charged the apartment. The radiated heat in the room where the children had been sleeping was intense, they said. The babies were removed by their mother from the building just before the arrival of the fire department. Had they remained in the room longer they might have been asphyxiated, firemen said.

The flames had gained considerable headway and the firemen were obliged to enter the apartment from the rear to put out the blaze. The telephoned alarm was received at 10:05 o'clock.

MARCH 24, 1944.

## Rutland Woman Dies Following Blaze at Home

Bereavement followed in the wake of severe domestic loss for Benjamin H. Wilkinson of South Stratton road last night with the death of his wife, Mrs. Ella J. Wilkinson, about an hour after his farmhouse was badly damaged by fire which burned out the attic and a back room.

Mrs. Wilkinson died at 8:45 o'clock at the home of her son, Alton, on Church street, where she had gone because of the excitement at the fire-charred home, according to the family.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Wilkinson is survived by three sons, Byron, of Pittsburg, Pa., and Alton and Roy, both of Rutland. The body was taken to the Aldous Funeral home. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

A quickly-organized bucket brigade is credited with holding down the loss in the blaze which destroyed most of the attic and badly damaged an upstairs room of the farmhouse, situated between Curtis avenue and the Cold River road in the town of Rutland.

Firemen gave credit to the men and boys who passed water from a kitchen pump up a ladder, and pitched it in through a window, for holding back the blaze which they said originated from a defective chimney in an upstairs back store-room.

Considerable stored property was destroyed as the fire swept through the small room and upstairs into the attic where it burned deep into the timbers, and broke out through the roof in one spot.

When firemen arrived the flames were pouring out at the back end of the house at attic level. Water from the booster tank on the fire engine, which stayed on the scene for an hour, beat down the flames.

for an hour, beat down the flames.

## Fire Razes Heath Barn

Hay, Tools and 12 Hens Also Lost in North Clarendon Blaze.

Rutland firemen and volunteers from Clarendon and Rutland battled for more than five and a half hours Saturday night to extinguish a blaze which destroyed a large haybarn on the farm of Ralph E. Heath at North Clarendon. The owner estimated his loss at \$5000. More than 15 tons of hay, farm and electrical equipment, tools and a dozen poultry were burned, in addition to the building and a storage shed, Heath said yesterday.

The fire, which gained rapid headway, was believed to have been caused when an electric bulb was broken in the haymow. The fire fighters fought the blaze throughout a continuous rainfall.

The Heath farm, owned by Ralph E. Heath, electrician, is operated by his son, Ralph E. Heath, Jr. The family occupies the farmhouse which is located just below the large bridge over Cold river on the main highway, US 7, at North Clarendon.

Heath said that the flames were discovered about 8 o'clock, and were spreading rapidly at that time. The Rutland Fire department was summoned, under a standing financial arrangement between the city and the town of Clarendon. Engine truck No. 1 and a crew of firemen responded, arriving at 6:33 o'clock. Three streams of water, pumped from Cold river, were played on the flames.

Firemen and volunteers assisted Heath in saving three cows which had been brought into the barn from the pasture for milking, a motor boat, a car, and a trailer. Heath yesterday commended the Rutland department for efficient work in saving three nearby houses and other farm buildings.

Six other cows and a span of horses were in the meadow, a distance from the burning building. Efforts to save a dozen hens in the barn were futile. Heath said that in addition to the barn, a shed in the rear of the structure containing electrical equipment, motors and other material which he uses in his business as an electrician were destroyed. He stated that some of the electrical stock lost is irreplaceable because of war conditions.

Firemen and neighbors pitched burning hay from the barn until midnight. The smoldering continued yesterday.

## Overheated Furnace Gets Blame for West St. Fire

The fire department responded to a call at 8:58 last night from the Holmes Iron Works at 232 West street to extinguish a fire caused by an overheated oil furnace in a large metal work room. Three hot air pipes near the furnace became overheated and ignited the ceiling.

The firemen had to break the windows on the north side of the building in order to gain entrance. Two lines of hose and booster lines were used to put out the flames. A large oil truck was housed in the front part of the building.

Very little damage was caused by the fire, according to department officials.

The department was called out at 12:25 yesterday afternoon to 68 Pine street to extinguish a chimney fire and again at 7:15 last night to 102 Wales street for a chimney blaze. No damage was caused at either place, officials said.



SEPTEMBER 27, 1945.

## Firemen Douse Creek Road Blaze In the 'Little Red Schoolhouse'

The Rutland fire department, its equipment standing in Rutland city, extinguished a fire just over the line in Rutland town yesterday, in the building on the Creek road occupied by the family of Raymond Dawson, which for decades served the vicinity as a district school.

The little red brick building has two rooms, and in recent years has been the home of Dawson, a farmhand, Mrs. Dawson and their five children. The blaze originated from an overheated stovepipe about 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning, and the fire department was summoned by neighbors.

Children of the Dawson family were attending school in Center Rutland at the time, but firemen found it necessary to rescue two puppies, who are family pets, from the fire. Mrs. Dawson, who was alone in the house at the time the flames broke out, escaped injury, but the interior of the building was damaged.

One of the yellow and white pups was carried from a burning shed in the rear of the structure and

another had crawled under a small front porch and was unable to get out. Firemen chopped the platform open in order to rescue the stranded dog.

The "little red school house" as it is known to many families living in the vicinity of Billings bridge, was erected in 1865 at the close of the Civil war, and for nearly half a century children of the Billings, Kelley, Benson, Gleason, Sharp, Boardman and other families of the neighborhood, obtained their grade school education there.

Probably the oldest living person who went to school there is William R. Sharp, 81, Quarterline road farmer, who later became the school commissioner. He married Carrie Newton, who taught the classes there in the early 1890's. His sons also studied in the little brick building. Sharp recalls the little box stove which heated the classroom, and that the drinking water supply had to be carried in pails by the older boys from the nearby Kelley farm, now the Hindley home.

## Apartment Fire Believed Due To Cigarette

Firemen attributed careless smoking as the cause of a blaze which yesterday afternoon destroyed a bed, blankets and wearing apparel and damaged bedroom walls in a lower apartment at 77 Harrison avenue occupied by the family of Arthur Delliveneri. The family was not at home when firemen arrived and had not returned early last night.

The trucks were called at 1:47 o'clock by a neighbor who observed smoke coming from the Delliveneri tenement. When the firemen arrived the smoke was so dense that they had difficulty in locating the fire. After the fire, which had been smoldering for hours had been brought under control, firemen found that it originated from a burning cigarette which had been left on a chair beside a bed. The cigarette ignited clothing which was thrown over the chair and then set fire to the bed and bed clothing.

The fire fighting apparatus returned to the station at 2:22 o'clock.

FEBRUARY 10, 1945.

## Fire Damages Home At 40 Stratton Road

A fire starting in a clothes closet at the home of George Cox of 40 Stratton road caused damage to the extent of \$1000 according to fire department officials.

The department was called out at 6:55 o'clock last night to the Cox home. The fire spread through three rooms downstairs. One line of hose and booster lines were used in fighting the blaze.

## Chimney Fire Spreads To Partition in Home

A chimney fire which spread to a partition in the home of Orlando Zullo of 297 West street was extinguished by the Rutland Fire department Saturday night.

The fire fighting apparatus was called out at 8:26 o'clock by telephone alarm. Finding that the blaze was spreading to the partitions the firemen set up a box alarm, No. 73, on the transmitter system. Several feet of hose were laid to the nearest hydrant and the booster line was used. The first truck returned to the central station at 8:57, the others following a short time later.

Private box alarm 471 in the E. D. Keyes building on Evelyn street was sounded at 9:10 o'clock Saturday morning. Responding, firemen found that the alarm automatically was rung after air had leaked from the sprinkler system. There was no blaze, and no water damage.

RUTLAND DAILY HERALD,

## Static Given Fire Blame

Blaze in Center St. Dry Cleaning Plant Ascribed to Spark From Finger.

A static spark from the finger of an employee, which ignited dry cleaning fluid in a "washing" machine in the basement of Paul's dry cleaning and tailoring plant on Center street, was given as the cause of a blaze in the basement of the concern early yesterday afternoon.

Dominick C. Paul, owner of the business, said last night that the amount of damage had not as yet been determined. He estimated that it would not be heavy, however.

Clifford King was the operator of the machine where the fire originated. About 60 articles of clothing were in the large machine for cleansing. Firemen said that the "static spark" from the operator's finger caught fire to the dry cleaning liquid, resulting in a flareup. The operator was uninjured, but the clothing in the machine was ruined.

The fire was confined to a small area of the basement although the flames burned a hole in the ceiling about three feet in diameter. King used a fire extinguisher and firemen brought in two booster lines, one through the grating on the Center street side of the building and another by a rear entrance from Wales street. There was considerable smoke.

The trucks were called out at 1:10 o'clock and the fire was out at 1:30 o'clock.

## Large Area Burns Over

Five- or Six-Acre Grass Fire Threatens for a Time to Spread to Woods.

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According to Fire Chief A. H. Koltonski, the grass fire resulted from a bonfire on the property of Louis Columbus of Killington avenue in Rutland town, spread across a meadow owned by Frank Sullivan, and then threatened the pine grove in an adjoining woods.

The Rutland Fire department received the call at 3:55 o'clock, and worked with pack pumps at the scene for a full hour. Also fighting the blaze were many neighbors and spectators, who used shovels, brooms and even coats in their efforts to check its spread.

While the firemen were there a call came to extinguish a grass fire on the East Proctor road, beyond the town limits, which could not be answered.

The fire in Rutland town was one of three grass fires extinguished by the local firemen during the day, the others being in a lot on Jefferson street, and on Norton place, where a bonfire had caused a stretch of grass to burn, spreading to Sheldon place.

At 5:50 o'clock yesterday afternoon the trucks were called to a fire at 72 Forest street, where, according to Chief Koltonski, children playing with matches caused a blaze in a partition between a structure formerly used as a store and a garage. The fire was out at 6:18 o'clock.

## Fire Hits 2d Story

Blaze in South Main St. Garage Building Doused, Damage Believed Small.

Rutland firemen yesterday afternoon battled for an hour and a half to put out a blaze which damaged the second story of a garage building at 194 South Main street, operated by H. F. Goulette and formerly known as Colburn's garage. The property is owned by Alvah Billings. Although firemen gave no official estimate of damage, it was believed that the amount was in the vicinity of \$250.

According to Deputy Chief Ralph R. Bean, the blaze started from an outside chimney, leading from the furnace on the first floor. A sleeve from the furnace pipe to the outside chimney was apparently too close to the clapboards, and the flames crept up the outside of the building to the second floor and then went inside the building, damaging a large floor space where gas line pump parts were stored. A dwelling house only 12 feet from the garage was not touched by the fire.

A telephone alarm was received at the station at 2:40 o'clock, and box 31 was sounded at 2:45 o'clock, bringing out four call firemen to assist the department. Three booster lines and 1100 feet of hose were used in fighting the fire.

The fire fighters, working in a temperature of 28 degrees, were treated to hot coffee and doughnuts, delivered by truck from Prouse's diner by Albert W. Macauley, proprietor, who said the service would continue at each alarm fire during the winter.

At 3:45 o'clock yesterday morning the firemen were called to 146 Baxter street to extinguish a fire in a one story house occupied by B. W. Cox and owned by Mrs. Nora Reynolds. A defective chimney was given as the cause of the blaze which was confined to a partition in the end of the building.

## Porch Blaze Is Promptly Doused by City Firemen

The Rutland Fire department, responding to a call from Box 39, found a briskly burning blaze which originated in papers and rubbish under a rear porch at the home of J. J. Cunningham at 112 Strongs avenue yesterday morning at 11:35 o'clock. The flames had extended to a shed on the premises. A line of hose was laid to the hydrant at Clover street and Strongs avenue. The fire was quenched promptly.

The department extinguished two chimney fires during the day: At 9:51 in the morning at 9 Hopkins street and at 6:50 o'clock last night at 135 Pearl street.



# Quarter of Million Dollars Damage Done As City's Worst Fire in Years Sweeps East Part of Gryphon Building



Firemen Battle to Save Western Half of Building and Grand Theater; Outlet Store Ruined.

## Carbine's Hit

Smoke Pours Through Offices and Out Onto Merchants Row; Many Firemen Overcome.

More than a quarter of a million dollars in building, store stocks and office equipment went up in smoke last night and early this morning as the entire three-story eastern end of the Gryphon building on West street near Merchants Row fed a stubborn fire that for a time threatened to engulf the entire area.

Firemen from West Rutland and Proctor joined the entire Rutland department in fighting the blaze, which created so much smoke that firemen had great difficulty in getting at the blaze.

It was Rutland's worst fire in many years, some comparing it with the great fire at the Hotel Bardwell in 1918 and the Mead building blaze 30 years ago.

Starting in the basement of the Outlet store, apparently in the boiler room, soon after 9 o'clock last night, flames had broken through the roof of that section of the Gryphon building by soon after midnight and it was not until 1:40 o'clock this morning that Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski would state that the fire was under control.

At that time, water was cascading out of the front door of the building on Merchants Row and the entire building was still full of smoke, but the flames were definitely limited to the three-story eastern section of the building and only smoke and water damage was in prospect for the five-story newer section to the west.

Even as late as 2:30 this morning, after tons of water had been poured into the burning structure, continuing dense smoke from the paints and turpentine in the basement kept firemen from coming to grips with the blaze and flames broke out, first in one place and then another as the streams were moved from one window to another. Chief Koltonski stated then that it would still be sev-

Smoke is shown billowing out of the Outlet Super Market as firemen use ladders to seek out the worst sources of the flames. The fire started in the basement of the Outlet store and spread through other parts of the Gryphon building.

Herald Photo.

## Proctor and West Rutland Departments Make Fast Runs to Aid City Firemen

Acting Mayor J. Fred Carbine called upon the Proctor and West Rutland Fire departments for assistance, by telephone, at 10 o'clock from the Rutland restaurant. At 10:20 both towns had responded, with a truck and 12 men from each. The West Rutland department was headed by C. L. Montgomery, while Cecil Curtis acted as chief of the Proctor crew.

## News at Glance

### DOMESTIC.

RUTLAND—Worst fire in years causes hundreds of thousands of dollars damage in Gryphon building; Outlet store wiped out—Page 1.



eral hours before his men could leave.

Exact cause of the fire was undetermined early this morning. Arthur E. Reynolds, building janitor, stated that shortly after 9 o'clock he was in the boiler room, found the fire normally banked with two pounds of steam pressure—and no sign of smoke or trouble. It is his theory that defective wiring or some sort of furnace backfire may have caused the blaze.

First word of the fire reached the central station from Special Police Officer Irving McKirryher, who was passing on his rounds. While he was giving

the telephoned alarm, some other passerby pulled the alarm from Box 43.

Police and state Motor Vehicle department inspectors were on hand simultaneously with the firemen and established fire lines around the threatened building.

A crowd estimated at over 3000 people soon gathered behind the rope lines established by police, to watch the dense clouds of black smoke roll out of the few openings first made by the fire-fighting crews.

Early in the battle against the blaze, crews under the direction of Chief A. H. Koltonski knocked out the big front windows of the Outlet Supermarket with pike poles, allowing billows of smoke from the burning paint in the basement to roll out.

Attacking the fire from all available entrances and windows in the rear and front of the buildings, firemen were hampered by the smoke and could do little but pour water into the basement and first floor areas.

Soon after 10, Chief Koltonski asked Acting Mayor J. Fred Carbine to call for help from West Rutland and Proctor departments, which responded within 20 minutes. All hope of saving anything but the framework of the eastern, three-story section of the building was abandoned and firemen concentrated on saving the Grand theater building, next door to the east, and the remaining, five-story section of the Gryphon building itself.

Prompt action of the crew of the big nozzle mounted on the ladder truck across West street aided in flooding the roof of the burning section after flames had broken through about midnight. The crowd gasped as the red glare showed through the mountain of smoke rolling up. After being held in check for a few moments, the blaze roared up again, above the stairway from the West street entrance.

No accurate estimate of total damage to the building and its contents could be made early this morning by any of the owners. The Gryphon property is valued at \$46,500 for tax purposes, with a probable actual value in excess of \$100,000, not all of which was involved directly in the fire loss, although smoke and water permeated virtually the entire building.

William I. Ginsburg, one of the owners of the Outlet store, stated that the stock destroyed in the fire would have a value in excess of \$50,000 and the value of the supplies of clothing in the Carbine store, damaged by smoke and water, was estimated at \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Offices of doctors, dentists and lawyers on the second and third floors of the burned-out section contained additional thousands of dollars' worth of furniture, equipment and supplies. In addition, one wall, and especially the section near the entrance of the Grand theater suffered damage from fire and water of unestimated amount.

More than a dozen firemen were overcome by the dense smoke during the course of the blaze, but all recovered promptly.

More difficulty was experienced getting at the fire than in having men enough or water enough, it was reported.

Owners of the building are W. T. Wright of Concordia, Kan., and Earl S. Wright and Mrs. Marian Young of this city. They are also owners of the theater building.

Tenants in the Gryphon building, about one-third of whom had offices in the burned-out section are, besides the Outlet stores and the Carbine Clothing company:

Second floor—Jerome D. Kennedy, lawyer; Bradford C. Powers, physician; Burroughs Adding Machine company; Fred C. Roberts, insurance; Angelo J. Spero, lawyer; Carter R. Woods, dentist; Dr. George G. Marshall, eye, ear, nose and throat specialist; Harper Method Beauty shop, Mrs. Viola M. Wright, proprietor; Dr. Herbert H. Yarrington, dentist; Dr. Percy M. Williams, dentist; Dr. Robert P. Williams, physician; Vermont State department of Probation and Parole.

Third floor—William L. Scoville, lawyer; Vermont state department of Public Welfare; Madeline E.

Durivage, chiropodist; Cecelia Durivage, hairdresser; Dr. Thomas A. Norton, dentist; Dr. William Gould, chiropractor; George M. Goddard, lawyer; Goddard & Edson; Boynton Hotel Interests, Inc.

Fourth floor—Tidewater Associated Oil company; Lumberman's Mutual Casualty company, Donald MacInnis, manager; American Motorists Insurance company, Donald S. MacInnis, branch manager; New England Mutual Life Insurance company, Andrew C. Matthews, general agent.

Fifth floor—Bove, Billado & Dick, lawyers; Stafford, Abatiell and Stafford, lawyers.

The Gryphon building was subjected to a smaller blaze the night of April 28, 1938. At 8 o'clock that night a clerk working in the basement storeroom of the Carbine Clothing store, corner of Merchants Row and West street, discovered a small blaze and called the fire department after unsuccessful attempts to put it out.

The entire force answered the call and the blaze was extinguished within 10 minutes. The Carbine company sustained heavy fire and smoke damage, all covered by insurance, and the flames were confined to the store. Heavy smoke did considerable damage to the Outlet and other stores on Merchants Row.

Commenting on the fires tonight, a Carbine store official said that it was impossible to compare the damages and though the fire tonight was much larger, the Carbine damage appeared confined to that by smoke and water.

## Sidelights on Rutland's Worst Fire in Many Years

The men of the Rutland Fire department showed their years' of training in the efficient manner in which they battled the hopeless blaze for hours. Time and time again both regular department members and volunteers were overcome by smoke, only to return to the smoke-filled building after they had recovered. Some of the veteran fire-fighters said that the blaze was the most difficult they had ever combatted.

Thirteen streams of water were continuously played on the burning buildings. When the seriousness of the fire was made known Commissioner of Public Works W. V. Kallio and Water Department Foreman William T. Dwyer ordered the water work employees to release full pressure, which was 110 pounds.

Thirty tons of soft coal, drums of dry cleaning fluid, countless gallons of turpentine and paints burned in the basement of the Outlet building.

Two large searchlights owned by the Central Vermont Public Service corporation and erected on the CV building were played on the burning Gryphon building across the street.

Gerald Desmarais, door man at the Grand theater, who has just received his discharge from army service, smelled smoke as he was making a tour of the balcony of the house just before the last show was out. He hurried to the booth, turned on the lights of the theater and quietly called upon the 300 people there to leave in an orderly manner stating

that there was a fire in the adjoining building. There was no confusion and no injuries, according to Frank A. Vennett, manager.

When water from the hoses failed to break the windows of the second story offices in the blazing block, spectators, hurled every available kind of missile, including even cans of beans from the Outlet store, to break the glass.

Earl S. Wright, owner of the Gryphon building, spending Thanksgiving night with his family at home, was not aware of the fire, which broke out at 8:37 o'clock, until he received a telephone call from The Herald at 11:30.

A stricken spectator was William C. Carbine who had just put in his Christmas stock, the greater part of which is irreplaceable. Although he refused to comment on his loss, it is believed that the figure is in the vicinity of \$75,000.

As the blaze progressed throughout the early hours dentists, physicians, insurance men, occupants of offices in the upper floors over the stores stood helplessly by, unable to enter to salvage records and valuable equipment.

Employees of the Central Vermont Public Service corporation stood by watching the power lines which took a hammering from the water pressure. The line feeding power to the Rutland hospital, The Herald and other plants, passed in front of the burning building. Central Vermont Public Service company men said upon questions, that in case of a break in the line the power would be shut off by an automatic switch.

Hot coffee and doughnuts were supplied to firemen and police on duty from two sources. The Kresge lunch counter was opened up for their benefit and A. W. Macauley also had food ready for the fire-fighters.

Hundreds of spectators who thronged the business section to watch the progress of the fire were drenched from time to time.

Traffic was the heaviest in years on all city streets, and all available police officers and special police were called out. Members of the state motor vehicle department staff also assisted.

One of the greatest fears of the city and special police officers guarding against onlookers getting into the danger area was that some of the high tension wires would come down and "snake" into the crowd. Many of the officials expressed fear not only of electrocutions which might have occurred, but also of injuries people could have received if panic spread among the closely packed mass of people.

When fear of the fire spreading into the Grand theater was first expressed, excited fingers pointed to one window which seemed to have a brilliant redness behind it. It was a discerning policeman who figured that the "flame" was actually the reflection of a neon light on the Rutland Bowling Center glancing from the red brick building wall across the street to the window of the Grand.

The waning crowd who stuck it out into the early morning hours were given an opportunity to express themselves when billowing flames appeared in the top story of the building over the Outlet store on the West street side. They lustily cheered and shouted advice and encouragement to the attempts of firemen to break office windows.

Chief of Police Harold S. Potter and Sheriff Geno N. Franzoni said early this morning that no accidents were reported other than the effect of smoke upon firemen. The officers stated that the most seriously affected was Deputy Fire Chief Frank H. Seward, who was taken to the fire station and a pulmotor used to revive him.

The tremendous loss to the owners and occupants of the stores and office buildings in the fire gutted block was realized by the many spectators who commented frequently upon the destruction of dental equipment and other valuable apparatus.

The most serious damage to the Grand theater was a break in a wall chopped to gain access to the firewall next to the Outlet store. The theater was drenched and filled with smoke, and last night it looked as if there would be no movies in the house for a day or two.

Water and smoke damage will constitute a great part of the loss. Tons of water cascaded through the windows and down through the roof of the building for hours.

The Gryphon building was erected 30 years ago by the late W. H. Wright and George H. Young of Brandon.



# Work Starts On Clean-Up After \$250,000 Blaze

Job of Restoring Order Out of Chaos Begun After Firemen End 14-Hour Fight at Gryphon Building.

## Plans Made

Broken Windows Boarded Up as Occupants Prepare to Resume Business Where Possible.

Rutland business and professional men, occupants of the big Gryphon building at Merchants Row and West street, yesterday began attempts to restore order out of chaos, and many viewed complete loss of equipment and fixtures, after the disastrous quarter of a million dollar fire which ravaged the big business block Thanksgiving night and early yesterday.

Rutland firemen, under the leadership of Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, wound up a 14-hour battle against the stubborn blaze when they played the last stream of water upon the devastated building at 11:30 o'clock yesterday morning.

Later in the day a check-up showed that casualties of the department were light in view of the seriousness of the blaze, and the difficulty encountered in getting at the source of the fire. Two firemen were hospitalized; one had escaped serious injury when a 35-foot ladder gave way as he was climbing from one roof to another with a line of hose; several of the men were under medical treatment and four were ill at their homes, suffering from smoke inhalation, smoke blindness and eye irritations.

As soon as it was declared safe, workmen began the task of boarding up open spaces. Many merchants and office owners made plans to clean up their quarters and resume business as soon as possible, while others attempted to salvage equipment and sought to locate new office space.

The Gryphon building is divided into two sections. The west or "new" part of the building, of five floors, facing Merchants Row is constructed of concrete and steel. The "old" section on the east, facing West street, is three stories high and built of masonry and wood.

Damage to the west section was caused by smoke and water, and it will be ready for use as soon as the stores and offices are redecorated and repaired, which is expected to be within a short time. However, the "old" part of the building, between the corner block and the Grand theater, was badly gutted by fire and it is stated that the greater part of it will have to be rebuilt.

William I. Ginsburg and William C. Carbine, owners of the stores facing Merchants Row on the ground floor of the west section, expect to be open for business within a few weeks.

The Outlet Super Market, owned by Samuel Cramer of Amsterdam, N. Y., will resume business at once if a new location can be found, according to a company representative. The super market includes the meat, grocery and fruit departments. The stock was unofficially said to be a total loss. Many housewives groaned when it was learned that such scarce products as Mayonnaise and soap powder were included in the items destroyed. So terrific was the blaze in the market section of the building that the heavy meat cases crashed

through to the basement as flames consumed the flooring.

Earl S. Wright of North Main street, one of the owners of the Gryphon block, said last night that he would make no estimate of the loss until insurance company adjusters had completed their inspection and made reports. Office managers and members of their staffs braved water which dripped continuously through the five stories of the building, inches of soot, falling plaster, wet floors and dampness as they inspected their loss, began clean-up operations and salvaged records.

William C. Carbine, clothing merchant, who occupied the corner store on the ground floor, said that the greater part of his merchandise was salvaged, and that damage was caused by smoke and water. Employees of the store and firemen placed salvage covers over most of the merchandise as they braved the heavy smoke Thursday night.

Carbine was optimistic yesterday at the possibility of reopening before Christmas. He would make no estimate of his loss until insurance adjusters have completed a survey. He said that he had received telephone and telegraph messages yesterday from many of the concerns from whom he buys, promising their co-operation in assisting him in restocking as soon as possible.

Carbine said he is extremely grateful to the members of the Rutland Fire department, the auxiliary firemen, and the men of the West Rutland and Proctor Fire departments for their efficient and willing service in checking the fire. The same sentiment was expressed yesterday by Earl S. Wright, owner, and by many other occupants of the building.

William I. Ginsburg, one of the owners of the Outlet Trading Post, stated last night that all employees are being kept on the payroll and that most of them were busy cleaning up and salvaging whatever is usable from the shoe, clothing and household goods damaged by fire, smoke and water.

The usable portions of the stores will be reopened just as rapidly as possible, Ginsburg stated. No estimate of the loss from the fire, either to stock or fixtures, can be expected for several days, he added.

The Grand theater in a separate building, east of the Outlet Super Market, was damaged by smoke and water. Only a small section of the northwest corner on the ground floor was burned. The work of cleaning all of the seats in the house, and the floor, was carried out yesterday by a squad of men and women.

Manager Frank A. Vennett said that an oil-heating unit in the furnace was installed yesterday, and that the theater will be open for

business today. The movie, "Thundering Gun Slinger," will be featured in continuous shows beginning at 1 o'clock this afternoon.

Deputy Fire Marshal Chester Kirby of Montpelier arrived in Rutland yesterday to assist Fire Chief Koltonski in making an investigation of the disastrous fire. The state official pronounced the job of fire-fighting "excellent."

Firemen receiving treatment at the Rutland hospital yesterday for smoke inhalation were Harold P. Mangan, who has just returned to duty after nearly four years of combat with the Navy in the South Pacific, and George Ferguson.

Fireman Martin Kelly was treated at the hospital late Thursday night after he was overcome by smoke and then returned to duty. He narrowly escaped serious injury when the 35-foot ladder on which he was climbing from the roof on top of the Grand theater to the top of the east section of the Gryphon building, gave way. Kelly was carrying a hose line at the time. The tip of the ladder was broken as it slipped from the cornice of the building to the lower roof. Deputy Chief Frank H. Seward was overcome by smoke and after he was resuscitated by means of a pulmotor, returned to work.

Others overcome by smoke during the progress of the blaze were Deputy Chief Bean, James Barron, John Kent, Auxiliary Fireman J. Tilly Ballard, and Robert Piccucci. They, too, continued fire-fighting as soon as they recovered.

Treated by Dr. Weston C. Hammond, eye specialist, last night and today for eye irritations were Deputy Chief Ralph Bean, Firemen James Barron, Martin Kelly and John McGinley, III at their homes were Capt. James Rice, veteran of the war in Europe, Capt. Percy Woods, McGinley and Kelly.

Chief Koltonski expressed warm thanks yesterday to the fire departments of Proctor and West Rutland which promptly answered a call for help; to Chief Milton Lavery and members of the Burlington Fire department, who offered to help, to the auxiliary firemen and to restaurant owners and Red Cross canteen workers, who provided the firemen with hot coffee, sandwiches and doughnuts during the fire.

The exact cause of the blaze will not be known until a complete investigation has been made, Chief Koltonski said last night. A check will be started this morning, he said.

Koltonski declared that the blaze was the hardest fought in the 21 years that he has been head of the department. Difficulty in getting at the base of the fire offered the greatest problem. The flames, which broke out in the basement of the Outlet store, had reached the ground floor when the firemen arrived, and only the reflection could be seen through the heavy smoke.

The flames fired a lally column or steel support boxed in wood, mushroomed up wooden partitions to the upper stories and spread over the floors. The blaze swept through the fire-wall next to the Grand theater on the southeast corner of the building and spread to the steel ceiling of the Outlet store. Pike poles used by the department were not long enough to pull down the ceiling and the thickness of the smoke from burning paint and linoleum hampered the work.

The fire chief said that the presence of high tension wires in front of the Gryphon building prevented the use of aerial ladders. It was necessary to bring ladders to the rear of the building in order to reach the roof, causing a delay in opening up ventilation on the roof, the chief said.

Engine 1 and its crew were at work in the rear of the building and Engine 3, on the West street side in front. The fire chief said that it was the first time that both

ladders and a deluge set were in operation simultaneously.

Koltonski said it was fortunate that it was possible to cut off the progress of the blaze from the Gryphon building to the wooden rear of the McClallen block on Merchants Row. There is a fire wall between the two buildings but the hallways were unprotected, he said.

More water was used in putting out the blaze than in any fire in Chief Koltonski's memory. The exact amount had not been figured last night.

Water mains into the Gryphon building were turned off yesterday on order of Water Foreman William Dwyer, in order to repair two pipes broken in the fire. Telephone and light service in the building was in operation yesterday.

The stone emblem, symbolizing a gryphon, figure of ancient mythology, with the head of an eagle and the body of a lion, which stands on the roof of the east section of the damaged building, retained its perch yesterday, unaffected by the blaze.



# Tenants Poke In Fire Ruins For Salvage

Gryphon Occupants Slosh  
Under Dripping Ceilings  
to Assess Losses.

## Plans Indefinite

Tenants of the Gryphon building spent yesterday sloshing through mud and water underneath dripping ceilings to determine what could be salvaged among the charred ruins and the smoke-gummed furniture and equipment.

Most of them were unable to give a dollars-and-cents estimate of their losses and many of them were indefinite about future plans.

Several tenants on the upper floors of the west portion indicated that their usual schedules could be resumed as soon as heat was available in the building or as soon as the smoke and soot can be cleaned up.

Others are considering moving to other offices, if and when such accommodations can be found, or transferring business temporarily to their homes.

The remainder are waiting until their former quarters are repaired or renovated.

Water on the second and third floors, which was several inches deep yesterday morning, had subsided to puddles in the rooms and corridors by afternoon. On the upper two floors, much of the damage was caused by a sticky film of smoke said to have come from burning tar on the roof of the three-story eastern section of the building, hardest hit by Thursday night's fire.

Although the boilers are practically buried by the debris in the basement, it is expected that heat will be available by next week. Building officials have expressed hope that the boiler which heats the newer part of the building, where damage was least, will not need major repairs.

Tenants of the lower floors have not dared turn on electric apparatus for fear of short circuits, but on the fourth floor electric heaters were being used yesterday afternoon. Telephone service had been resumed to at least one second floor office.

Rugs, furniture and equipment constituted the major part of the loss to tenants. Most concerns reported that their files were undamaged or could be salvaged. Some equipment was believed to need only cleaning and overhauling to be back in working condition. The extent of damage to other pieces could not be determined as yet.

Dr. B. C. Powers, who has occupied offices on the second floor for 33 years, was still unable to tell whether his extensive physical therapy equipment, including an actinic ray generator, sine wave generator, ultra violet lamp, infrared heat and X-ray machines, were damaged.

With water still dripping from the ceilings and covering the floors of his suite to the depth of an inch, he had been unable to turn the machines on for fear of short circuits.

His files, which were in waterproof cases, were undamaged.

He had recently discarded insurance, he said after carrying it for about 30 years.

Dr. Powers does not plan to transfer his practice elsewhere but will wait until his present offices can be renovated.

Dr. Robert P. Williams, physician, who shared a suite of offices with his father, Dr. Percy M. Williams, dentist, at the rear of the building

where the damage was greatest, termed their supplies and equipment a total loss but said they were covered by insurance.

Dr. Williams believed that lack of available office space would keep them from moving elsewhere.

Jerome D. Kennedy, whose law office was on the second floor, also used the term "total loss" to describe the extent of damage, with furniture and rugs as two of the largest items. Kennedy, however, plans to try to find other office space.

The Fred C. Roberts Insurance office suffered relatively little from smoke and water and will be open for business as soon as the heat is turned on.

Attorney Angelo J. Spero reported that resumption of business in his office would also depend on heat. Floors and furniture will be "cleaned up" as soon as possible, probably within a week. Books and files were slightly damaged but can be used.

The \$2500 damage to Dr. Carter Wood's office includes hard-to-replace dentist's equipment. Dr. Woods plans to suspend his practice until his former quarters are repaired.

Dr. George G. Marshall, eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, was in New York Thursday night and did not learn of the fire until he was notified by telephone yesterday morning. He arrived by train yesterday afternoon to find his office

"pretty well ruined." He believed, however, that he could salvage many of his instruments and records and continue in the same offices when they are repaired.

Dr. Herbert H. Yarrington, dentist, reported "everything damaged by smoke and water" but said that he had saved his records. His plans for carrying on his practice were still uncertain.

The division of probation and parole office of the department of public welfare was in ruins, but Luther Drohat, deputy of probation and parole, stated that the state money and records, which were in another room, were saved.

The probation and parole office will be set up temporarily in Drohat's home at 71 Church street.

On the third floor, where smoke and water damage was also extensive, Dr. Thomas A. Norton had already engaged help to clean and paint his dental office. He expected that it would be ready for occupancy in 10 days or two weeks. He estimated the loss, much of which was furniture, at \$500.

Madeline E. Durivage, chiropodist, and Cecelia Durivage, hairdresser, were uncertain about future plans, but were considering moving their business into their home. Equipment, which was scoured with a sticky film of smoke, would need complete overhauling before it could be used, they said.

The six-room suite of the Provident Mutual Life Insurance company was demolished but the furniture is being covered with building paper for temporary use and moved to two rooms over the Woolworth store on Merchants Row. The files are being salvaged, Raymond E. Holway, general agent of the company, said.

H. E. Robbins is moving his typewriter and adding machine business to his home at 185 Grove street. He was unable to estimate damage, but said that his supplies were destroyed. He expected to be able to salvage the typewriters.

On the fourth and fifth floors, there was less water and mud, but a thick coating of tarry smoke covered everything. Several tenants stated that their loss was in disruption of business and cost of labor for cleaning rather than in actual destruction of material.

The Lumbermen's Mutual Casualty company and American Motorists Insurance company offices, of which Donald MacInnis is in charge, will be open for business as soon as the heat is on, as will the New England Mutual Life Insurance office under the management of A. C. Matthews.

Payson Rex Webber, architect, is

moving his office temporarily to his home on Grove street. Among the smoke-coated articles in Webber's office are numerous technical books now out of print.

William McDonald, chief clerk of the Tidewater Oil company, said

business is being carried on in an office at the company's bulk plant, but that as soon as the heat is on the staff can return to the former quarters.

The Stafford, Abatiell and Stafford law offices, which occupied five rooms on the fifth floor, will be open again next week if heat is available. The \$2000 loss to the firm included ruined furniture and rugs.

The only damage in the offices of the law firm of Bove, Billado and Dick, also on the fifth floor, was from smoke. Plans for carrying on the firm's business are awaiting Peter A. Bove's return from New York.

## Canteen Corps Of Red Cross On Fire Duty

The peacetime function of units organized for national defense was demonstrated during the Gryphon building fire Thanksgiving night and early yesterday morning. The assistance rendered by auxiliary firemen and police has been stressed by city officials.

The Canteen corps of the Rutland County chapter, American Red Cross, called out at midnight by Dr. Charles D. Beale, disaster chairman, remained on duty until 5:15 o'clock yesterday morning. Fourteen gallons of hot coffee and 200 large sandwiches were served to firemen and police on duty.

Service was set up in the vestibule of the Central Vermont Public Service corporation building and the workers circulated with trays of sandwiches and pitchers of coffee at intervals, while many of the workers at the fire came directly to the stand for refreshment. Twenty gallons of coffee were provided by Mr. and Mrs. Ira Harkness of Kresge's store, and the couple assisted in serving. Sandwiches were made by the Canteen corps members. James Perkins of Central creamery kept his store open until 5 in the morning to service the Red Cross.

Canteen workers who served were: Mrs. Helmer Hood, chairman; Miss Helen Koltanski, Mrs. Morris Snyder, Mrs. Nathaniel Ginsburg, Mrs. Louise Berger, Miss Amy L. Perkins, chapter executive, also assisted.

## Firemen Respond to Two Calls After Big Night

As an aftermath to the Gryphon building fire, the fire department yesterday received two calls of minor importance.

The janitor of the Combination store, located at Edson and Willow streets, telephoned the department at 9:40 last night and said he thought there was smoke in the basement. Investigation proved the "smoke" to be an ammonia mist from a leak in an ammonia compressor.

The other call, responded to at 1:50 yesterday afternoon, was caused by defective wiring on a car parked at Columbian avenue and State street. Little damage was reported. Firemen said the blaze was put out by the car owner.

BY G. E. McLAUGHLIN,  
Managing Editor.  
Nov. 18-24.

A relatively quiet Thanksgiving day was drawing to a close this week, when the Thursday night stillness was broken shortly after 9 o'clock by Rutland's new fire alarm, sounding a call from Box 43. In the next six hours, a quarter of a million dollars worth of property, store and office equipment and merchandise went up in smoke as flames swept through the eastern end of the Gryphon building, big business block which fronts on both West street and Merchants Row. The Outlet Supermarket was ruined by fire and water, the Carbine Clothing company sustained thousands of dollars in damage from smoke and water, the Grand theater had a narrow escape from destruction and a dozen or more offices of business and professional men in the Gryphon building were damaged by smoke and water. The Rutland Fire department, always ranked as one of the best small departments in the east, lived up to its reputation, stopping the fire in the east end of the building, thus preventing the flames from sweeping westward toward Merchants Row. Destruction of the business district was averted.



# Blaze One of Rutland's Largest



Herald Photo.

This "morning after the night before" scene shows the Gryphon building at the corner of West street and Merchants Row as it appeared yesterday, its three-story eastern section gutted by the \$250,000 fire which started about 9:30 o'clock Thursday night while its five-story western section was structurally unharmed but with extensive smoke and water damage to offices and their contents. Workmen were busy boarding up the smashed windows and the West street sidewalk was roped off for the protection of passersby.

## Thursday Night's Fire One Of Three Conflagrations

One aftermath of Thursday night's Gryphon building fire, with its estimated loss of about a quarter of a million dollars, was inevitably to bring reminiscences of other major conflagrations in Rutland's history. Comparable, perhaps, in difficulty—but because of extreme cold rather than dense smoke—was the Bardwell blaze of almost 28 years ago; while for sheer destructiveness, the \$700,000 damage done in February, 1906, to five buildings near Merchants Row and Center street, remains tops in the city's record to date.

That fire, which started on a quiet Sunday morning in the Ripley block on Merchants Row, was fought by 28 members of the Rutland Fire department aided by three companies brought by rail from Whitehall, N. Y., which arrived with their steamers and hose carts by 9:30 o'clock.

Despite the best efforts of the combined crews, the blaze spread rapidly through the Mead block at the corner and swept up Center street through three more buildings before it was controlled.

Breaking with tradition, The Herald on that Sunday published an extra, which reached the streets at 2:35 in the afternoon, with five solid columns of fire news.

Early in the morning of December 30, 1917, 30 guests at the Hotel Bardwell were roused by the cry of "fire" given by Day Clerk Joseph Kerrigan, and with 50 hotel employees rushed scantily clad to the streets, where the thermometer stood at 25 below zero.

At 6 o'clock Night Clerk Barnes discovered smoke near the hotel office and called the fire department, which responded with all equip-

ment and soon had nine hoses playing on the fire. By 7 o'clock it was thought the blaze was under control, but it then broke out with renewed fury, burning throughout the day and threatening to engulf adjacent buildings. There was no wind and despite the intense cold the steam-engines and all equipment operated without a failure. Soon the entire front of the hotel was sheathed with ice, as tons of water were poured into it, and the pavement on Merchants Row became a glassy hazard. Fireman D. E. Blanchard was seriously injured falling from a third floor ladder.

Guests and employees were immediately taken into private homes and later joined the crowds watching and aiding the firemen. By noon the blaze was well under control, having consumed the entire hotel proper, except for the annex and newer section. At 11:30 that night flames once more broke out in the ruins but were quickly extinguished by the exhausted firemen.

Later investigation indicated an overheated chimney as the cause of the fire. Due to the great masses of ice covering the building, insurance adjusters could not accurately appraise the loss to the hotel, though the figure of \$125,000 was named, one-half of it covered by insurance. The hotel was built in 1851 by Otis-Bardwell of Walpole, N. H., and at the time of the fire was owned by parties in Rutland and Kansas.

Fire Chief James C. Dunn, after the fire, expressed his appreciation for the help given by Rutland people and for gloves and mittens furnished firemen by local merchants.

## Fire Breaks Out Again

Early Saturday Call to Gryphon Block One of Several Week-End Alarms.

A shelf of smouldering underwear in the fire-charred ruins of the Outlet store in the Gryphon building on West street caused a call for the Rutland Fire department at 3:55 o'clock Saturday morning, less than 17 hours after the quarter of a million dollar blaze in the business block had been brought under control.

Firemen extinguished the fire within a few minutes, but remained on the scene until 5 o'clock. A later check to eliminate any smouldering debris was conducted throughout the day.

A call to the Grand theater, next to the Outlet store, to turn off the steam in a broken pipe; a needless alarm; a grass fire; a chimney fire and two false alarms were also given the attention of the fire department over the week-end.

The alarm which brought the fire-fighting equipment to a house on Hopkins street at 9:25 o'clock Saturday morning was listed as "needless." A grass fire on West street was put out at 2:37 o'clock Saturday afternoon; at 3:31 the trucks were called to the Grand theater. Firemen found that steam was bursting from a broken pipe, and the heat was turned off in that section. Patrons of the theater were not disturbed, firemen said. The false alarms were rung from Box 35 at East and East Washington streets at 9 o'clock Saturday night and from Box 322, Park and South Main streets, shortly after 9 o'clock last night. The department extinguished chimney fire at 16 North street yesterday morning.

Firemen Harold "Pat" Mangan and George Ferguson, who were taken to the Rutland hospital suffering from the effects of smoke inhalation after the Gryphon building fire early Friday morning, were discharged as patients from the institution yesterday, Chief Alfred H. Koltowski reported.

Mangan and several other department members who have been confined to their homes as an aftermath of the fire expect to return to duty today. However, Ferguson and Martin Kelly will remain at their homes on orders of Dr. W. C. Hammond, eye specialist, and Dr. J. J. Tomasi. Both are suffering from eye irritations and smoke inhalation.

Deputy Fire Marshal Chester Kirby has returned to Montpelier after being in Rutland to confer with Fire Chief Koltowski on the Gryphon building fire. The Rutland fire chief said that the cause of the conflagration cannot be determined until a thorough check has been made through the debris in the basement where the blaze originated.

As soon as this can be done, the investigation, with the state fire official participating, will be completed.

Attorney Peter A. Bove of the law firm of Bove, Billado & Dick returned from a trip to New York to find his fifth-floor suite of offices in the Gryphon building in sorry shape with furniture, law books and files covered with a thick black coat of dirt.

Attorney Bove decided to transfer his office quarters temporarily to his home at 78 Grove street, pending a general clean-up of the offices.





Herald Photo.  
Shown here is part of the huge crowd which watched the fire. The men, women and children are lined up on the Universalist church lawn.

## City's Official Thanks Given For Fire Aid

The thanks of the city of Rutland were expressed by Acting Mayor J. Fred Carbine yesterday to Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and the members of his fire department and to the fire-fighting forces of Proctor and West Rutland for their work in combatting the Gryphon building blaze.

Regular and call policemen, under the direction of Chief Harold S. Potter and the motor vehicle officers of the Rutland district, also received the praise of the acting mayor for their work in directing traffic and in holding back thousands of interested spectators during the fire.

Appreciation for the work of William T. Dwyer, water department foreman and his men, in standing by during the emergency, was also emphasized.

The voluntary help given by the Red Cross canteen ladies and restaurant operators in serving hot coffee and sandwiches to the firemen is deeply appreciated also, Carbine said.

"The auxiliary firemen and policemen lent excellent assistance, and we are grateful to them, and also to other citizens and officers who helped out in any way," Acting Mayor Carbine stated.

Yesterday he sent out letters to Cecil Curtis, who acted as chief of the Proctor Fire department and to C. L. Montgomery, West Rutland fire chief, who with their crews were in Rutland 20 minutes after his call for aid. "You have every reason to be proud of your fine departments," he informed them.



Herald Photo.  
One of several fire-fighters overcome by smoke, George W. Peck, 3d, a call fireman, is shown resting on the running board of a fire truck where he was led by other firemen.

## Community Fire Loss

The Gryphon building fire was undoubtedly the most costly conflagration Rutland has had in 25 years or more. It is difficult even under ordinary conditions to obtain full protection against fire loss, and conditions today are far from ordinary.

Stocks of merchandise are practically impossible to replace. Most merchants feel lucky to have even modest stocks for Christmas this year and would be staggered at the thought of having to duplicate what they have on hand. Building repairs have probably never been more difficult and expensive to make than they are today. Both labor and materials are short and costly.

Occupants of business and professional offices under ordinary conditions, if driven from their quarters by fire, would have little difficulty finding temporary locations elsewhere. But the Gryphon building fire came at a time when there is a shortage instead of a surplus of office space in the city.

A fire of the size of the Gryphon blaze is not only a blow to the owners and occupants of the property affected. It hurts the entire community. Under other conditions the loss of sales and productive activity, could be easily absorbed by the rest of business district, but not at this season when the demand for goods and services exceeds the supply.

Nothing serves better as a fire hazard warning to others than a disastrous loss like this. It is a forcible reminder to others that now of all

times every possible precaution should be taken to prevent fires from starting and to obtain as much protection as possible against fire loss.

In this instance, the damage might easily have been much more devastating than it was and more crippling to the community from the economic standpoint. It was a difficult fire to control and might have spread much more widely if we did not have an efficient fire department whose skill, combined with courage and persistence, limited the fire area. Regular firemen had welcome assistance from the auxiliary force of volunteers and from Proctor and West Rutland. A large force of firefighters often isn't any better than a small one, but many replacements were needed at the Gryphon fire because of incapacitating smoke and fumes. Masks seemed to be relatively ineffective, presumably because of lack of oxygen in the building interior.



MARCH 25, 1946



**TOP:** Deputy Chief Ralph Bean of the Rutland Fire department gets chummy with "Tiny," the neighborhood pet whose barking led to the discovery of the fire which Saturday night destroyed a henhouse and hens at the corner of Lincoln avenue and Vernon street. The dog is owned by Robert Conway.

**ABOVE:** George Blanchard holds two of his prize hens, the only survivors of the fire. A fireman looks on.

Herald Photos.

## Dog Hero Of Small Blaze

Rouses Neighbors When Henhouse Burns; Week-End Grass Fire Total Is 20.

Tiny, a neighborhood pet dog, was hero of a henhouse fire at 220 Lincoln avenue Saturday night as he discovered the blaze in which seven of nine prize hens perished aroused the neighborhood and later led firemen to the scene.

The blaze was one of 22 calls answered during the week-end by the local department, with a seasonal high in grass fires yesterday as the day's calls jumped to 16.

The fire at the Lincoln avenue address was discovered when Robert Conway, owner of Tiny, was aroused by the unusual barking of the dog at 11 o'clock Saturday night. Going out to investigate the commotion he found the henhouse nearly consumed by fire.

Following the summoning of the fire department Tiny, not content with having made the discovery, met the fire truck as it arrived and led firemen to the scene of the fire. This procedure was repeated when a second truck arrived and the same courtesy was extended to observers who stopped to see the blaze.

The chickens were owned by George Blanchard, another resident of the Lincoln avenue house.

Grass fires yesterday were at Gleason road at 11:32 o'clock in the morning, 302 West street at 11:35, Creek road at 11:56 and at 12:03 in the afternoon, Temple and Deer streets at 12, 10 Royce street at 12:12, 206 Lincoln at 12:46, Bellevue avenue and North street at 1:13.

Also, at Woodstock avenue at 1:15, Norton place at 1:26, 77 Traverse street at 2:20, 33 Pine street at 2:36, Clark street at 2:43, Hyland avenue at 2:41, Lincoln avenue at 2:54, and at Cold River road at 3:04.

The department also responded to grass fires Saturday at Pierpont avenue at 9:50 o'clock in the morning, at 101 West street at 4:02 in the afternoon, at the rear of the Loretto home on Meadow street at 7:45, and at 50 Bellevue at 9:18. A chimney fire at 57 Summer street was extinguished at 11:35 o'clock in the morning.

AUGUST 2, 1946.

## Fire Consumes \$2000 Worth of Antique Pieces

Fire destroyed a number of pieces of antique furniture valued at \$2000 and owned by Mrs. Francis E. Bowker, jr., of 17 Roberts avenue last night as flames swept through the interior of the garage attached to her home.

The fire, believed to have been started by an overheated flatiron, was quickly extinguished by firemen before it could spread to the adjoining house. The blaze was put out by using two booster lines.

Damage was confined to the furniture, which included a number of mahogany and maple chairs, overstuffed sofas, and other period pieces, and to the interior of the garage, firemen reported.

The fire was discovered at 9:16 o'clock by Miss Candace Bowker, the owner's daughter.

JANUARY 21, 1946

## West Rutland Home Burns

Rydzeski House Is Destroyed; Rutland Department Aids in Fighting Flames.

West Rutland and Rutland firemen fought for several hours last night to put out a blaze which destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley T. Rydzkeski on Gilmore avenue, West Rutland, and for a time threatened several nearby residences.

A break in the nearest hydrant and high wind hindered the work of the firemen in the near zero weather.

Deputy Fire Chiefs Wilbur Nelson and Patrick Phalen of West Rutland estimated the loss at more than \$4000, and stated that the fire was caused by an overheated stove pipe. The fire officials said that the blaze was the biggest in West Rutland in several years.

The town fire department was called out at 6:30 o'clock. The work of fire fighting was hampered when the top of the hydrant in front of the Putnam home on Main street, above Gilmore avenue, blew off. The West Rutland fire department sent out a call to the Rutland department for help and a truck and crew of firemen in charge of Deputy Chief Frank Seward responded.

A line of additional hose provided by the Rutland department was connected to the hydrant at Clarendon avenue. The flames, fanned by the high wind, had gained rapid headway by the time the West Rutland department arrived on the scene. The town firemen assisted Rydzkeski, father of four children, in removing the greater part of the downstairs furnishings in the burning house.

At 11 o'clock last night the walls of the house were standing but the roof and partitions had collapsed. Icicles covered the ruins of the structure.

The second coldest night of the winter season failed to hamper the activities of pranksters who turned in a false alarm from Box 14 at 11:15 p. m. Saturday, calling the city's fire fighting equipment to Church and Williams street.

At 1:18 o'clock yesterday morning the trucks were called by telephone alarm to the Landon store on Evelyn street where the sprinkler system went off. At 3 o'clock Sunday morning the department was summoned to the Eagle Inn on Wales street to extinguish a mattress fire.

Yesterday afternoon at 1:10 o'clock the Rutland fire department extinguished a chimney blaze at 47 Grant avenue.





Herald Photo.

Firemen used ladders to bring their hose into play on the heart of the blaze which last night destroyed the barn of Dr. Earle E. Johnson on North street extension, doing damage estimated at several thousand dollars. The structure was virtually a total loss, together with considerable equipment, but five riding horses were saved.

## Crowd Views Barn Blaze

Flames Consume Large Structure on North St. Extension; Horses Saved.

The biggest crowd to view a fire here since the Gryphon building blaze last fall turned out last night shortly after the curfew whistle to watch the burning of a barn and stable on North street extension, the property of Dr. Earle E. Johnson. Five horses unharmed, but quantities of hay, tools, buggies and other equipment were consumed in the flames which were thought to have started with a short circuit.

Shortly after the Box 252 sounded at 8:55 o'clock hundreds of cars began converging on the scene, police reported. Situated on high ground the flames were visible from all parts of the city. Cars lined both sides of North street extension, the north end of Highland avenue, and parts of Bellevue, Clinton and Mona Vista avenues. Police kept through lanes for fire equipment, however, diverting latecomers elsewhere and keeping pedestrians off the streets. Police Chief J. Fred Carbine and four officers were present.

The building, including a horse barn and attached shed to the north, was partially covered by insurance, Dr. Johnson said last night. The fire, originating in the north cell, which was completely consumed by the flames, probably started in an electric short circuit, the owner stated.

Firemen had the flames under control before 9:30 o'clock but little appeared to remain of the structure except for a shell of the main barn. A large section of the shingled roof was burned out.

A small quantity of saddles, tools and miscellaneous equipment was saved with the horses, Dr. Johnson trophies and riding equipment collected, but most of a collection of lected during the past 25 years was destroyed, as well as between five and six tons of hay.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski estimated that the damage would run to several thousand dollars and that the building was "a total loss." Firemen were busy until early this morning forking over tons of hay in the upper part of the main barn to extinguish all sparks.

DECEMBER 23, 1946

## Clothing Fire Hits Home On Coolidge Ave.

A fire which started in clothing hanging in a cellar stairway at the home of Clinton D. Hall on Coolidge avenue called out the Rutland Fire department equipment at 8:05 o'clock yesterday morning. The cause of the blaze has not been determined.

The flames spread from the clothing to the walls and there was damage throughout the house from smoke and heat. A booster line was used to put out the fire.

At 1:07 o'clock yesterday morning firemen were awakened by box alarm 45 at the corner of Center and Wales street. Answering, the department personnel found that the alarm was a false one.

At 2:10 o'clock Saturday afternoon the department responded to a call from Wales and Willow streets, where a car fire was reported. The blaze was out when the trucks arrived.

NOVEMBER 20, 1946

## Firemen Respond To Three Alarms Within One Afternoon Hour

The Rutland Fire department responded to three alarms within an hour yesterday afternoon as a sudden epidemic of blazes swept the city.

The first of these, which took the department to the home of Mrs. Catherine S. Hitzel of 16 North Main street at 3:20 o'clock, caused the most destruction as it ravaged a back shed and left it charred and smoking, causing considerable damage to the shed and contents. The department laid a booster line and two 1½ inch lines from North Main street to the blazing building.

While one unit of fire fighters was battling this threat another was called to West and Meadow streets where a truck belonging to Ward and Son of Rutland had caught fire. The body of the vehicle was undamaged, but the motor burned out, the department reported.

At 4:10 o'clock the trucks sped to the home of Dr. Edward J. Layden of 57 Chestnut avenue where a burning wastebasket caused alarm. No damage resulted from this blaze.

Earlier in the day, at 11:30 a. m., dry leaves and grass caught fire at Lincoln avenue causing a minor blaze which wrought no damage.

NOVEMBER 26, 1946.

## Flames Raze Dervin Home

Large Crowd Watches Midnight Fire on Gleason Rd.; Lack of Water Balks Firemen.

A midnight fire completely destroyed a two-story frame house belonging to Michael P. Dervin of the Gleason road as approximately 175 people, some clad in pajamas and coats, stood watching in clustered groups in the vicinity of the flaming building this morning.

The blaze, visible to many Rutland residents, shot hundreds of feet into the night sky attracting the large crowd to the scene of the fire on the outskirts of the city. About 50 automobiles were counted in areas adjacent to the property.

Dervin, who was in bed when he heard the sputtering sparks, said that the fire was caused by an overheated chimney. He rose and dressed himself, and as the fire spread from around the chimney and connecting stovepipe he was forced to escape through a bedroom window. He resided there alone where he is occupied in farming, owning the property and a barn close by which was endangered by the flying sparks from the house. There was only a slight breeze in evidence during the fire and it blew in an

opposite direction from the barn, which was not harmed.

Due to the absence of a water supply, the Rutland Fire department was helpless to combat the flames. They laid a single line from a water-laden truck to the vicinity of the barn to avert any further damage. The sparks from the deteriorating house, as it crumbled piece by piece, spread about the ground and burned the outer fringes of dry grass surrounding the building.

The house was a total loss but neither the owner nor department officials hazarded a guess as to the amount of damage in figures.

FEBRUARY 23, 1946

## Firemen Douse Partition Blaze On Willow St.

A small fire in a partition, resulting from an overheated chimney in the Grand Furniture company store in the Burke Brothers garage building on Willow street yesterday noon, called out three trucks and the personnel of the Rutland Fire department and attracted the attention of scores of persons in the business section.

A telephone alarm was turned in at 12:28 o'clock. When the firemen arrived they noticed smoke coming out of the clapboards on the first floor, and immediately turned in a request for an alarm on the transmitter system. Except for the damage caused by ripping out a portion of the wall near the chimney, loss was slight, according to department officials. There was a fire of a similar nature in the same building a year ago.

The fire department extinguished two chimney blazes yesterday, at 10:14 o'clock in the morning in a house at 159 Forest street and at 4:42 o'clock in the afternoon at 409 West street.

AUGUST 27, 1946

## Match Play Starts Fire: Damage \$600

Fire, reported to have been started by children playing with matches, caused an estimated \$600 damage yesterday afternoon to the house owned by Frederick T. Lapine of 117 Forest street.

Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said that most of the damage was caused by smoke which filtered from the shed where the fire started through the downstairs home of LaPine and into an upstairs apartment.

The walls of both the downstairs and upstairs sheds were badly charred and some clothes were destroyed.

The chief was told, he said, that the fire started when children lit newspapers and flames spread to an oil container.

The blaze was extinguished with use of a booster line and two 1½-inch hose lines. The call was received at 2:40 o'clock.



# Official Probe Of Armory Fire Opens Tuesday

State and Local Officials  
to Investigate Blaze Here  
Which Took Life of Care-  
taker T. F. Meleady.

## Loss Heavy

Damage Done Memorial  
Structure in Early Satur-  
day Blaze Is Estimated at  
\$35,000 to \$50,000.

An investigation directed by Deputy State Fire Marshal Chester M. Kirby of Montpelier will be opened tomorrow into the disastrous fire which caused unofficially-estimated damage of from \$35,000 to \$50,000 to the Rutland Memorial armory on West street early Saturday morning and claimed the life of Thomas F. Meleady, 36, caretaker of the building for 16 years.

Meleady, veteran of World War I and a former member of the National Guard for many years, was suffocated by heat and smoke in his sleeping quarters, apparently as he was dressing to investigate the fire. He was dead when firemen found him.

Kirby, who was in Rutland yesterday to confer with Fire Chief A. H. Koltonski and to inspect the armory, will be assisted in his official investigation by State's Attorney Edward G. McClallen, Jr.

Brig. Gen. Murdock A. Campbell of Montpelier, adjutant general of Vermont, and Col. Eric R. Brittain, supply officer of the State Guard staff, made an inspection of the armory Saturday morning following the fire.

Gen. Campbell ordered the discontinuance of public use of the building until further notice. He directed that steps be taken to prevent further deterioration of the property and to safeguard state and federal supplies and equipment.

Col. John L. Cootey of Rutland, commanding the First Battalion, Vermont State Guard, who is also custodian of the armory, announced yesterday that until the insurance settlement is effected no attempt will be made to restore the structure.

"No estimate of the damage can, at this time, be announced; however, it is known to be substantial," he stated.

Col. Cootey continued: "The loss would have been far greater but for the efficiency of the Rutland Fire department under Chief Koltonski. The Police department under Chief J. Fred Carbine was of great assistance.

"Whether an enlargement of the armory or a modernization takes place will rest with the State Armory commission, consisting at present of Gov. Proctor and the adjutant general.

"Gen. Campbell feels keenly the tragic death of his friend of long standing, Caretaker Tom Meleady, who faithfully served his state and community for so many years."

Although the office of the Rutland County Draft board, No. 1, on the first floor, southeast section of the armory, was damaged by heat and smoke, a check with Mrs. Winnie G. Nelson, chief clerk, showed that there has been no loss of records. Where the draft board would temporarily locate had not been decided last night.

Col. Cootey stated that damage to the equipment, ammunition and other supplies of the First Battalion headquarters, and to those of A Company, could not be determined until a thorough inspection is made.

The fire was discovered by Mrs. Florence Mangan, mother of Fireman Patrick Mangan, who lives in

the Olney apartment at 20 West street, opposite the armory. Mrs. Mangan sent in a telephone alarm at 3:31 o'clock Saturday morning.

The West street woman said she was lying in bed, her window shade partially raised, when she heard an explosion, and then saw a flash of fire in the vicinity of the armory. She arose, threw a coat over her night clothing and called her daughter, Miss Aileen Mangan. The two women walked over to the armory but saw no smoke coming from the building. She telephoned the fire department and asked them to send up a service truck to investigate.

Under the direction of Deputy Fire Chief Ralph R. Beane, two engines and crews responded, and an alarm was set up on the signal system. Within a brief period Chief A. H. Koltonski and all the remainder of the city's fire fighting equipment and call firemen were on the scene.

After gaining entrance through the main door, firemen found the entire building charged with terrific heat and dense smoke. So intense was the heat that the entire drill hall of the structure was unliveable for some time. Several streams of water from three lines of hose were played on the building from nearby hydrants. The hose lines were brought in through the main door and the two side doors, which were smashed open with axes.

Deputy Chief Frank H. Seward began an immediate check for persons who might be trapped in the building. Ascertaining the section in which the caretaker had living quarters, he climbed a ladder to the second story, southwest section. The double window was half way open and was screened. Looking into the room Seward saw that Meleady's cot had been slept in but was empty. Gaining entrance to the room, and with the aid of a flashlight, he proceeded through the intense heat and smoke until he found the caretaker lying on the floor behind a door leading to the upstairs hallway, the door having been opened about four inches.

Examining the body Deputy Chief Seward found that the caretaker was dead. He then went out through the window. Re-entering a short time later with Cell Fireman George W. Peck, 3d, the two lifted Meleady's blistered and partially-clad body and placed it on a stretcher. They were assisted in carrying it downstairs by Capt. Guy W. Whitcomb of the Vermont State Guard.

While this was being done Chief of Police Carbine and Police Sgt. John L. Dinn entered and made an examination of the room. So intense was the heat and smoke that they left the building by ladder from the second floor. Permission to move the body of the caretaker was obtained from Dr. J. J. Reedy of the city board of health and Dr. C. D. Beals, health officer. Dr. William J. Powers also was present. Help in obtaining emergency assistance was given by the night telephone operators on duty.

Fire Chief Koltonski said yesterday that the actual cause of the blaze had not been determined. It was believed, however, that the fire started in folding chairs and ceremonial equipment used on the previous night by Cairo temple of the Shrine, which held its spring ceremonial in the armory Friday evening. The equipment had been stored under the balcony to be removed on the following morning. A check showed that the last member of the Shrine had left the armory before midnight.

The fire had apparently been burning for approximately three hours when a hot air explosion occurred, the fire chief said. When the firemen entered the building they found that the material under the balcony had burned, the flames eating through the floor of the drill hall. The east side of the balcony had burned and had collapsed. The flames from the first fire did not extend over a large area. Most of the damage to the entire front of the building was caused by heat and smoke.

The hot air explosion, heard by Mrs. Mangan, bulged the walls of the drill hall three inches out of line, and two of the steel roof girders were badly damaged, the chief said. Flames broke out as a result of the intense heat, setting fire to the ceiling 100 feet from the original fire and the entire interior of the drill hall was charred.

Firemen released some of the heat and smoke by opening skylights on the roof.

Chief Koltonski said that apparently Caretaker Meleady, who had been sleeping in his room, was awakened by the explosion, and on opening his door was suffocated immediately by the extremely hot blast which rushed through the opening. Clothing found nearby indicated that Meleady was dressing as he was hurrying to investigate the noise. There were no flames

anywhere near the room, but the intense heat which entered charred the walls and blackened the furniture. As in many places in the building, the plaster had crumbled.

Also on the second floor of the armory was the "strong room" containing smoke bombs, tear gas and other ammunition used by the Vermont State Guard. An iron door led to the room.

Chief Koltonski said that in normal times he would estimate the damage to the armory in the vicinity of \$35,000. Due to present conditions, he explained last night, the actual loss or the cost of replacement could not be estimated.

Chief Koltonski yesterday praised the assistance given the fire department by the Rutland police department.

Sgt. Dan Brown was on duty at the police desk, when the fire was discovered. Shortly after the first alarm three regular officers and two specials, in addition to Chief Carbine and Sgts. Dinn and Brown were at the scene. Brown left his desk and was in charge until the chief arrived. The area between Lincoln avenue and Main street, including the north end of Main street was closed to traffic and cars were directed elsewhere.

The hundreds of Rutlanders who turned out as spectators to the fire, many of them with coats thrown over night clothes, were kept away from the building for safety reasons and so that they would not retard the operations of the firemen. Police guarded the armory until the State Guard took over and there was an officer on duty throughout the day.

Chief Carbine and Sgt. Dinn accompanied the body of Caretaker Meleady to the Spencer Funeral home where it was taken by ambulance, and then notified the fire victim's family in West Rutland.

Officers of Company A announced last night that a regular meeting will be held on the armory grounds tonight at 7:30 o'clock.

The body of Mr. Meleady was moved from the Spencer Funeral home to the Mullin Funeral home in West Rutland on Saturday. It will remain there until the hour of funeral services at St. Bridget's church, West Rutland, tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Burial will be in the family lot in St. Bridget's cemetery.

Thomas Francis Meleady was born in West Rutland 56 years ago, son of the late Thomas and Margaret Gorman Meleady. He was educated and spent his boyhood in that town. Later he was employed by the Vermont Marble company. He entered military service early in

World War I, and served for 12 months in France with the 312th Trench Mortar battery, assigned to the Infantry. After the war he was employed for a time in the construction of New York subways.

Mr. Meleady became caretaker of the armory in 1930. A few days ago he commented to a close friend, Col. George C. Ackley, retired, of this city, that he had been on the job at the armory for nearly 16 years. He had cared for the grounds, the boiler and made arrangements for and assisted at the many athletic tournaments, social functions and military activities held there.

Commenting on Caretaker Meleady Col. Ackley said yesterday: "His heart was bigger than his body. He was a friend of everyone and especially kind to children. The kids will miss him very much."

Meleady was a member of the Vermont National Guard, but because of his age was obliged to stay at his job, when the guardsmen were inducted into federal service. He was a member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Rutland lodge of Elks and Rutland aerie of Eagles.

Surviving him are two brothers, John Meleady of West Rutland and Howard Meleady of Newark, N. J., and two sisters, Mrs. Edward Noonan of West Rutland and Mrs. Lionel Mann of Hartford, Conn.



DECEMBER 14, 1946.

# Woman Perishes As Fire Engulfs Patterson Home

Mrs. May Ayling, 66, Housekeeper for Retired Businessman, Overcome at Litchfield Avenue.

## Losses Heavy

Owner, Morris Patterson, in Hospital; Firemen Called Out at 5:40 A.M.; Cause Undetermined.

A 66-year-old housekeeper, Mrs. May Ayling, perished in the flames of an early-morning fire at 56 Litchfield avenue yesterday which caused thousands of dollars' damage and sent the victim's employer, Morris Patterson, 74, to the Rutland hospital.

Firemen found the lifeless body of Mrs. Ayling on the kitchen floor of the Patterson home. Her bedroom was just off the kitchen; police and fire officials believe that the woman, awakened by smoke, went to the kitchen to investigate, and was overcome.

Dr. Charles D. Beale, city health officer, gave suffocation as the immediate cause of death, with third degree burns as a contributing factor.

Patterson is a retired businessman suffering from partial blindness, due to a cataract condition.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski stated last night that the cause of the blaze, which broke out either in the kitchen or an adjoining back shed at the Patterson home, is as yet undetermined.

At the Rutland hospital last night, Patterson was being treated by Dr. Stewart Ross for the effects of smoke inhalation and shock. Dr. Ross described his condition as "fairly comfortable." It will be a few days before total damage to the elderly man's lungs caused by the fire will be known, it was indicated.

Patterson, also awakened by dense smoke and clad only in pajamas and without shoes, escaped from an upstairs room where he had been sleeping, descended a staircase and made his way to the home of his next door neighbor, Joseph A. Abel, to obtain assistance.

Abel, a member of the Rutland city council, heard the man's knock, and answering, led the elderly man into his home. He summoned the Rutland Fire department and Patterson's son, A. Tuttle Patterson of Nichols street.

The Rutland Fire department received the call at 5:40 o'clock; when equipment arrived smoke was billowing from the north side of the Patterson home. Word was sent over the police radio system to have the man on duty at the desk at the central fire station sound box Alarm 81 to call out additional aid.

Arriving at the scene A. Tuttle Patterson made inquiries as to the safety of his father and of the housekeeper. Neighbors said they had not seen the woman during the excitement and could not state whether she had gone to the home of relatives for the night.

Fireman Patrick J. Hurley, crawling into the smoke-filled kitchen with a booster line, came in contact with the woman's body. Examination by Deputy Chief Ralph R. Bean and other members of the department showed that the woman was dead, apparently from suffocation.

State's Attorney Edward G. McClallen, jr., Chief of Police J. Fred Carbine and Dr. Beale were notified and arrived within a short time. Permission to move the body of Mrs. Ayling was given by the health officer. It was taken to the Spencer Funeral home on West street and later to the MacDonald Funeral home on Grove street.

Chief Koltonski said yesterday that Mrs. Ayling, after waking up, apparently went into the kitchen to find the cause of the heavy smoke and was immediately overcome, falling to the floor where she was later found.

Koltonski said the damage from the intense smoke and heat probably would run into several thousands of dollars because the Patterson home was furnished with valuable antiques and rugs. A Tuttle Patterson, son of the owner, said that the loss is covered by insurance.

Mr. Patterson, who escaped from the blaze, despite the handicap of blindness, is well known in Rutland county. For many years he was owner and operator of the Fair Haven Foundry and Machine shop at Fair Haven. With his father, shop at Fair Haven. With his father he operated the Eureka Slate quarry in Fair Haven for a long period, and also the Fair Haven Electric Light company. Later the Rutland Railway, Light & Power company bought out the power lines of the concern at Poultney and Fair Haven. Mr. Patterson retired from business nearly 30 years ago.

Funeral services for Mrs. Ayling were held yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the MacDonald Funeral home. The Rev. Frank W. Grippin, pastor of the Methodist church, officiated.

The bearers were Howard King, Mark Denden, James Quinn, sr., James Quinn, jr., Henry Iannetti and Fred Holland. Burial was in Evergreen cemetery.

Mrs. Ayling, a native of England, who has resided in Rutland for several years, is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Fred Holland of Chaplin avenue; two sisters, Mrs. George Sibthorp of Toronto, Canada, and Mrs. Ethel Tower of London, England, and three brothers, Sidney, George and Alec Edmondson, also of London.

Many floral tributes were received from relatives, neighbors and friends and the services were largely attended.

NOVEMBER 20, 1949

## 12 Flee Early Morning Fire

Occupants of Home at 146 Maple Street Escape Harm; Damage Set at \$300.

Twelve persons fled to safety from an early morning fire at 146 Maple street yesterday.

The flames were discovered by Mrs. Mae Moorby, occupant of a third floor apartment in the house, who quickly roused the rest of the residents and summoned the Rutland fire department.

The fire, which started in a clothes closet off the kitchen, was of an undetermined origin. Total damage was estimated at \$300.

Mrs. Moorby sent in a rapid telephone call to the fire department after seeing the flames. A general alarm was rung at 4:50 a. m. by fire department officials, sending all fire equipment to the scene.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said the fire caught in the partitions and mushroomed into the attic of the three-apartment house. Three fire engines and the ladder truck were sent to the scene where booster lines were used to extinguish the blaze.

The fire started in an apartment occupied by Mrs. Moorby, her housekeeper and two young children. Mrs. Moorby sent her housekeeper to the second floor apartment after discovering the blaze to awaken Mrs. Thelma Meszaros and her daughter and a roomer so they could flee to safety.

Mrs. Meszaros in turn awakened Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Soulia and their three children on the first floor before the fire department arrived at the scene.

The fire, which could have easily spread into a major disaster, according to Chief Koltonski, was quickly put out by the Rutland firefighters.

Damage was confined to the partitions in the third floor apartment. There was no loss of furniture or personal belongings.

Firemen covered furniture in the second floor apartment with salvage covers and the only damage reported in Mrs. Meszaros home was negligible smoke and water damage. There was no damage reported by Mrs. Soulia.

Over 100 people rushed to the scene of the early-morning blaze when the fire alarm was rung from box 17 at the corner of Baxter and Maple streets. People in nearby homes rushed out in their night-clothing and many other Rutland residents, awakened by the alarm, joined the curious.

## Grass Fires Total 15

Damage Done, More Threatened as Wind Spreads Blazes to Some Buildings.

The Rutland fire station resembled a relay post yesterday as apparatus came and went on the 15 calls to grass fires which had been turned in by mid-evening yesterday.

As in years past, the advent of warmer weather and spring has resulted in grass fires—but grass fires this year carry the threat of greater damage and property loss, with values at present levels, department officials pointed out.

"People use poor judgment," they stated, "when they start fires on a windy day for burning trash and for spring cleaning."

Fires yesterday were for the most part the result not of maliciousness, but of carelessness, it was stated. Twice the station was bare of apparatus as all trucks were out on separate calls. Once a box was sounded for off-duty firemen to report.

Damage resulted from fires which spread to sheds, garages and houses. The threat of more damage was always present. Officials last night urged Rutland citizens to be careful and use sound judgment.

Between 10:30 and 11:25 a. m. yesterday all available apparatus was at 6 Freeman avenue where a grass fire had spread to a shed attached to a house and scorched the house as well. The house was owned by Mrs. Irene Cox and occupied by Arthur Gorgan.

About \$600 property damage was done. Two booster lines were used and extra personnel to help run a hose line from a hydrant 1000 feet away—and to man the station—as well as to be present against the hazard of greater damage, were needed; box 361 was sounded at 10:42 a. m.

A lumber pile was burned and garage scorched in a Stratton road blaze to which apparatus responded, between 11:48 a. m. and 12:10 p. m. Two sheds and wood slabs at a saw mill were burned on North Church street where a hose line was laid between 12:31 p. m. and 1:10 p. m.

Other calls were made for fires on Killington avenue, to which apparatus responded between 10:32 and 10:56 a. m.; end of East Washington street, between 11:21 and 11:43 a. m.; Easterly avenue, between 11:25 and 11:48 a. m.; Mansfield place, between 11:40 and 11:51 a. m.; Dana school area between

11:41 and 11:50 a. m.; South Main street between 12:21 and 12:27 p. m.; 40 Washington street, between 12:52 and 1:03 p. m.; 92 Jackson avenue, between 1:25 and 2:20 p. m.; Watkins avenue school area between 3:25 and 3:40 p. m.; 151 Woodstock avenue between 3:40 and 4:16 p. m.; Easterly avenue between 5 and 5:27 p. m.; and Washington and Lafayette streets between 6:30 and 6:54 p. m.



## Torch Starts \$2000 Blaze

Vermont Marble Co.'s Center Rutland Plant Hit by Storage Dock Fire.

An estimated \$2000 damage was caused to the Vermont Marble company Center Rutland plant yesterday afternoon when a spark from an acetylene torch touched off a pile of excelsior in the storage dock adjacent to the main building.

Wallace M. Fay, assistant to the president of the company, said that the fire broke out about 1:15 p. m. while a worker was welding in the dock that is also used as a shipping room.

Rutland and Proctor fire departments answered the alarm as flames ate through bales of excelsior and along the tarred roof of the room that measures nearly 300 feet in length.

Engine No. 1 from the Rutland department went out at 1:23 p. m., followed at 1:40 p. m. by Engine No. 3. An official of the local department said that the flames were rolling along the entire length of the ceiling when the apparatus arrived on the scene.

He said that the Rutland department put two lines into use and that another line was placed in action by the Proctor department.

The building—made of brick—suffered only small damage, Fay said, but the roof was badly burned, a carload of excelsior bales was destroyed, a number of windows were broken and crated marble blocks were scorched by the heat.

Fay said that the marble—crated for shipment—could be cleaned. He said that the plant would be opened this morning after being closed for the remainder of the day yesterday after the fire was extinguished.

The Rutland fire department apparatus returned to the station at 4:04 p. m. while employees of the Marble company continued to remove the soaked excelsior from the building.

MARCH 19, 1947

## Fire Damages Home On East Center St.

A call to a fire at 49 East Center street, and a needless alarm rung for the sawmill at 263 Lincoln avenue, were answered by the Rutland Fire department yesterday.

The fire, which was said by a department official to have been caused by an overheated oil burner, burned a hole in the second floor occupied by Irving Gelvan in the building owned by the Rev. Nathan Gelvan, and traveled under the floor through a partition to the attic.

Damage was done to the rug, floor and partition, as well as to a cupboard in an adjoining room which was broken into in order to get at the fire, and water damage was done to the first floor ceiling, firemen reported.

The fire was extinguished between 8:37 and 9:27 p. m.

Between 10:54 and 11:10 a. m. yesterday Engines 2 and 3 responded to the call on Lincoln avenue, but when firemen reached the site, there was no fire. Inquiries were made, but neighbors and occupants disclaimed any knowledge of either a fire or a call.

Clock and Watch Repairs. Quick expert service. F. H. Mason, Berwick News Stand.—adv.

APRIL 4, 1947

## Father and Son Flee House Fire On State Street

While Frank Dennis and his eight-year-old son, Christopher, were asleep in their upstairs apartment, Guy Chase of 121 State street, who was out walking, saw smoke billowing forth from the house at 108 State street last night.

Chase rushed through the downstairs apartment, and finding no one there, ran upstairs where he awakened Dennis and his son sleeping in rooms into which smoke was already pouring.

The two went to a neighbor's house across the street where they quickly recovered.

Damage to the downstairs apartment, including kitchen, storage shed and attic—belonging to Agnes H. Cutting of 21 Pine street—was estimated at several hundred dollars by fire department officials.

The fire, said to have been of unknown origin, was extinguished by Engines 1 and 3 and the ladder truck of the fire department between 8:44 and 9:30 p. m.

## Stove Sets Home Afire

Kitchen of House Into Which Family Had Just Moved Damaged by Blaze.

A family that moved into a new home on the Post road Christmas Day almost had to move out yesterday when fire from an overheated stovepipe gutted the kitchen of their one-story house.

Capt. James J. Rice of the Rutland Fire department said that flames caused by a hot pipe too close to a partition did considerable damage to the home of Pelligrino Delliveneri before firemen extinguished them with the aid of a booster line.

Delliveneri's wife was alone in the house with the children when the fire was discovered yesterday, Capt. Rice said. The department received the first call at 10 a. m. and the last truck returned to the station at 10:57 a. m.

Delliveneri—who works at Paul's Cleaners and Dyers—will continue to live in the house with his family while repairs are being made, the fire department official said.

The department extinguished a small fire caused by a flooded oil burner at 12:20 p. m. yesterday. The fire occurred at 29 Killington avenue, but no damage resulted, Capt. Rice said.

Engines 1 and 3 went to a chimney fire at 102 Fairview avenue yesterday between 4:45 and 5:09 p. m.

## Firemen Save Two Women Felled by Gas

Two elderly Rutland women, partially overcome by illuminating gas, were discovered in a semi-unconsciousness state last night in time to be revived by members of the Rutland Fire department.

The two women, Mrs. Sarah Carroll and Mrs. Julia Barrett of 75 Forest street, were discovered nearly unconscious shortly after 9 p. m. by a relative.

Firemen who answered the first aid call said that gas from a kitchen range had apparently caused the accident. Using an inhalator and a resuscitator the firemen worked 15 minutes before bringing the women back to consciousness.

Dr. William J. Powers attended the women.

Later in the evening, at 10:20 p. m., the department answered a call to Avenue A, where a bonfire was extinguished.

## 'Grass' Fire Razes Barn

Spreading Blaze Blamed for Loss of Pittsford Road Structure; 12 Other Calls.

A grass fire yesterday was thought responsible for the burning of a barn on the Pittsford road and other such blazes seriously threatened property in the city, the fire department reported last night.

The department responded to 12 calls precipitated by grass fires in the city during the day, most of which were believed to have started from bonfires.

The barn on Route 7 leading to Pittsford was nearly destroyed when the department arrived and use of the booster line was necessary, officials said, to keep the flames from setting fire to a house located on the same property.

The barn, property of Mrs. William Abraham of Washington street, was completely destroyed as were used counters and show cases stored within it. R. A. Johnson is the house occupant.

Minor damage resulted to a fence and barn which were scorched by fire at 60 Church street. The fire which started at 5:06 o'clock from a rubbish pile left burning, seriously threatened barns and private garages between Church and Elm streets which have been built closely together, officials said.

Another grass fire known to have started from a burning rubbish pile was at Billings avenue at 4:44 o'clock in the afternoon.

All calls received by the department came in the afternoon and night. Those received were from Clinton avenue at 12:13, 12 Forest street at 12:14, Meadow street at 2:31. Also, 122 Gibson avenue at 3:10, the City farm on Woodstock avenue at 3:13, 46 Lincoln avenue at 4:01, Killington and Stratton road at 4:50, Howard avenue at 7:14, Wallace avenue at 7:23, and two fires on Allen street were at 8:21, and 9:29 o'clock.

## Grass Fire Total Mounts

18 Alarms in Day Bring Warning From Chief With Plea to "Be Careful."

Yesterday's total of 15 grass fires among 18 calls for the Rutland fire department brought forth a plea and a warning from Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski last night.

At one time yesterday four pieces of apparatus were at four different fires at once, leaving the station bare of firefighting equipment.

"Several boys have been maliciously setting grass fires," the chief charged, warning that he will press charges against them if caught.

Adults were asked to refrain from starting bonfires or burning trash on a windy day like yesterday.

A grass fire at Bellevue and North streets between 5:17 and 5:40 p. m. threatened four neighboring homes before it was brought under control.

A roomer who was carelessly smoking and set a blanket afire, then put it in a trash barrel in an inside rear shed, caused a fire at 76 Wales street between 6:20 and 6:45, it was stated.

It is incidents like these that caused Chief Koltonski, he stated, to ask Rutland citizens (1) to think and (2) to be careful.

Other grass fires which were extinguished yesterday were on Sergeant avenue between 10:50 and 11:14 a. m.; 140 Curtis avenue at 11:14 a. m.; Easterly avenue between 11:35 and 11:48 a. m.; 86 East street between 12:07 and 12:17 p. m.; Calvary cemetery between 1:10 and 2:14 p. m.; Allen street between 1:20 and 2:03 p. m.; Gibson and Forest streets between 1:43 and 1:53 p. m.; 130 Harrington avenue between 3:40 and 3:55 p. m.; 31 North street extension between 4:27 and 4:50 and 5:10 and 5:37 p. m.; Pearl and North streets between 5:35 and 5:45 p. m.; 14 Charles street between 7:14 and 7:25 p. m.; South Main street between 7:45 and 7:59 p. m.; West street cemetery between 8:11 and 8:19 p. m.; and Lafayette street and Killington avenue between 8:23 and 8:29 p. m.

Other fires extinguished yesterday were started from a cellar floor stove at 48 Hazel street between 12:17 and 12:30 a. m., and a gas hot water heater at 43 Washington street between 7:19 and 7:28 p. m.

## Blow Torch Causes Fire In Parsonage

The explosion of a blow torch being used in the removal of paint in a room on the second story of the Congregational parsonage at 23 Court street was the cause of a fire in the building yesterday afternoon. Damage was placed at approximately \$300 by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski.

The fire department was called to the parsonage, residence of the Rev. and Mrs. J. Graydon Brown and their family, at 2:57 o'clock. The painter who had been using the torch dropped it and the flames extended through a wall into partitions leading to the attic. Two booster lines were employed in putting out the fire. The trucks returned to the station at 3:40 o'clock.

Fire officials said that the Brown family, living in another section of the house which is in process of repair, was not affected by the blaze.

APRIL 9, 1947

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 8, 1947.



SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 7, 1947.

## Police On Long Duty

Shifts Forgotten, Hours 'As Needed' Since Flood Hit, Chief Reveals.

Faced with an apparently never-ending series of emergencies minor by comparison with the flood itself and the panic of Thursday, but demanding attention nonetheless, Rutland's police force was still on "indefinite" duty last night after three full days of service.

Chief J. Fred Carbine, praising in the highest terms the faithfulness and co-operation of his men during the emergency period, revealed that regular shifts have been "out the window" since Tuesday night. All the 20 members of the regular staff have averaged about 20 hours on the job out of each 24; they have slept a wink now and then when they could and where they could; and they have cheerfully stayed at assigned tasks even though, for some, it meant inability to help family, relatives or friends in the flooded area.

One officer, Emmett J. Fleming, who lived with his wife and two children at 55 Cleveland avenue, lost all his family possessions in the inundation, yet has been almost continuously on duty, Carbine revealed. Many of the others have been needed to help out at their homes in the fuel, water and clean-up shortages and tasks, yet stayed on until virtually exhausted to help others, maintain order and a semblance of traffic pattern.

Besides Fleming, Officer Francis Ryan, Martin Carmody and Sgt. Raymond Mooney have homes in the flooded area, while Officer Samuel Gorruso and Alvar Wener, on duty Tuesday night on the east side of the creek, had no way of helping or communicating with their families, living on Watkins and Pierpoint avenues.

Much of the police work these past three days has been in the worst of the flooded section, almost constantly in dirt, muck and dust. Carbine pointed out. Fatigue and the constant dust and dirt have threatened several with sore throats, but with the advice of Dr. Charles D. Beale, city health officer, serious trouble has been so far avoided.

Malefactors have been few during the crisis, the chief revealed, but the jail cots have not been idle, many of the officers, returning briefly after a tour of duty, using the city's jail cells as resting places.

Besides the 20 men on the regular force, including himself, Capt. John Dinn and Sergeants Mooney and Daniel Brown—who served as long hours as any despite his recent return after an operation—about 20 special policemen have been serving almost as long hours, Carbine said. In addition, another 20 "specials" have been giving what time they could, after their regular jobs.

APRIL 14, 1947

## Firemen Go On New Plan This Morning

After 7:30 a. m. today, when the fire department's new two-platoon system goes into effect, if the fire whistle blows, Rutland citizens may feel pretty sure that an important fire is being fought.

The whistle may be a call for more apparatus and more men. All off-duty firemen as well as volunteers are expected to proceed immediately to the area designated by the whistles.

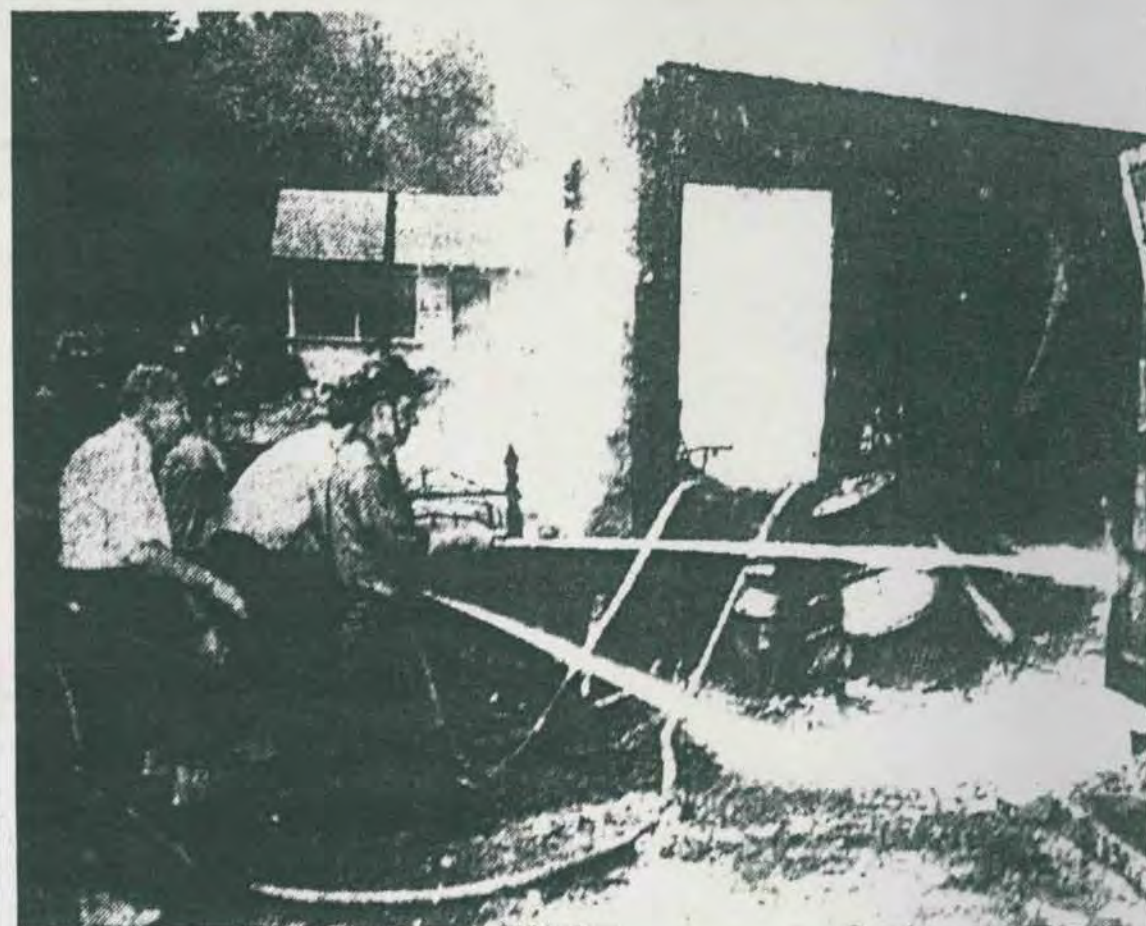
Fire department officials predict that the inauguration today of the new system will considerably enhance its effective striking force.

More men will henceforth be available immediately per piece of fire-fighting apparatus; and the old system where the whistle was blown regardless of the importance of the fire has now been abolished.

An unusual accident took place on Saturday when a gas explosion in the Chinese restaurant on Center street broke two front window panes of glass and burned a cook's left hand and arm. Fire and police department officials investigated.

Five grass fires were extinguished by the fire department yesterday: On Temple street between 7:10 and 7:23 a. m.; 49 Pierpoint avenue between 9:56 and 10:02 a. m.; Ripley road between 1:50 and 2:05 p. m.; back of Green's hill between 4:53 and 5:10 p. m.; and on Geno avenue between 6:55 and 7:10 p. m.

On Saturday grass fires were extinguished at 143 Baxter street between 3:05 and 3:23 p. m.; River street and Strong's avenue between 3:10 and 3:22 p. m.; and 5 Seabury street between 3:39 and 3:46 p. m. An oil burner fire at 32 West street was put out between 10:28 and 10:54 a. m.



Herald photos.

ABOVE: Rutland firemen battle blaze which yesterday destroyed two East Pittsford cottages, fronting the former East Pittsford pond, and for a time threatened other cottages.

RIGHT: Mrs. Lawrence Doty and two of her three children watch their home go up in flames. The children are Barbara and Patricia. Donna, the baby, had been taken to a neighbor's home.

## Fire Claims Two Homes

Cottages Near Former East Pittsford Pond Destroyed in Afternoon Blaze.

Two cottages owned by ex-G. I. Philip Garofano, in what was formerly the East Pittsford pond resort area, were destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon. Two flanking buildings were saved by Rutland firemen.

Garofano, who bought the houses along with a store and boating concession last fall, was haying at a neighboring farm when the fire started, and his wife was in Rutland with their two small daughters.

The fire was discovered by Mrs. Lawrence Doty, who with her husband and three children lived in one of the Garofano houses. Smelling smoke at about 1:30 p. m., she went outside to investigate, she said, and saw brownish smoke pouring out from under the eaves of the house the Garofano's lived in and used as a restaurant they called "Helen and Phil's."

A neighbor, Jack Hance, broke open a window and tried to extinguish the flames with water from a garden hose while Mrs. Doty called the Rutland fire department. But the intense heat of the flames burst the water pipes inside the house, he said, and with the pressure gone water stopped flowing from the hose.



Both Hance and Mrs. Doty said that the flames appeared to be localized at first in the rear of the house where the oil burner for the water heater was located.

Because the town of Chittenden, in which the property is located, does not have a fire protection agreement with Rutland, according to Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, firemen here told Mrs. Doty that the mayor would have to give his permission before men and equipment could go to the area.

Pearl Holland, whose son owns a house next to the Garofano place, called Mayor Wayne N. Temple, who gave the firemen permission to go to the fire.

When engine No. 3 arrived, the Garofano house was a pile of burning ashes and the Doty house was enveloped in flames. Firemen quickly extinguished flames which had jumped to the store on one side and to the Holland house on the other side of the burning buildings.

Garofano, who arrived at the fire in time to stand and watch while the house he rented to the Doty caught fire, said that he and his family would live temporarily in a bakery owned by his father-in-law. Mrs. Doty said that she and her family would also move in with relatives.





Herald photos.

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"My wife has taken off the tails of my shirt to put them on the front of my collars," declared Lord Woolton, chairman of the British Conservative party, at a rally in Haywards Heath, England.



# Rutland Father, Two Young Sons Drown in Otter Creek Tragedy As Family Seeks to Escape Heat



Herald Photo.

Persons who assisted in searching for the bodies of Francis A. West and his two young sons, drowned yesterday in Otter creek, stand by as Rutland firemen work desperately with a pulmotor to restore life in the body of one of the boys. At right is Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski.

Victims Are Francis A. West, 45, of Post Street, and Reginald Francis, 7, and Larry Harmon, 5.

## Find Bodies

Clarendon Residents Recover Victims; Efforts of Firemen to Revive Trio Fail.

A father and his two small sons were drowned early last night while wading in Otter creek during a family outing made to escape the heat of the city.

Dead were Francis A. West, 45, of 116 Post street, and his two boys, Reginald Francis, 7, and Larry Harmon, 5, who fell into a hole in Otter Creek in Clarendon about 7:30 last night while wading with Mrs. West and the family's third child, Clara Jane, 12, at a place they had visited several times before without mishap.

The family had driven down the Creek road after dinner to an isolated spot, locally known as the Sand bar, at the insistence of the children who wanted to cool off, the mother said. None of the five could swim, but they took off their shoes and went wading.

They had only been in the water for a short time, she said, when one of the boys slipped into a hole and disappeared. The father, jumping to grab him, went in over his head and was followed by the other boy, she said.

When the three failed to rise to the surface, Mrs. West drove to the home of James Eddy, 72, on the Creek road, to get help. The fire department was called and Eddy rushed back to the creek with Mrs. West. Although unable to swim, Eddy was able to get Larry out of the water.

Planning to go fishing, Bernard Eddy, 41, of Wallingford, a distant relative of James, and a friend on furlough from the Army whose name was not available, arrived at the scene just as James Eddy was hauling the boy out.

Stunned by the impact of the accident, the mother was unable to give any more than the most general directions, they said, but Bernard Eddy spotted the father from the bank and brought him ashore, where he administered artificial respiration.

The other boy, Reginald, was not located until 15 minutes later, it was estimated, when he was carried ashore by Rutland Fireman John Barrett, who arrived at the scene with the department service truck carrying a resuscitator and a boat. Rescuers estimated the hole in which the three drowned to be about eight feet deep.

Efforts were made to revive one of the boys with the resuscitator while others administered artificial respiration to the father and the other boy. A few minutes later Dr. Thomas A. Keenan arrived followed by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, who brought another resuscitator, which was put into immediate operation.

Rescuers said they started working on the three at about 7:40 p. m. After dark work continued by light from electric torches. It was not until 9:45 that all hope was given up and the last of the three was pronounced dead by Dr. Keenan.

Mr. West, who worked for the Eaton Lumber company, moved to Rutland with his family three years ago from Shoreham. He was born May 10, 1902 in Bakersfield, the son of the late Bernice (Cutting) and Frank West.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1947.

## Water Floods Three Floors

Sprinkler Break in Tuttle Block Does Considerable Damage to Four Concerns.

Thirty-five gallons of water a minute poured out of a broken sprinkler on the third floor of the Tuttle building on Center street for over 15 minutes last night, flooding offices of the W. E. Layfield Manufacturing company on the third floor, offices of the Tuttle Printing company on the second floor and the Fruitland market and Center Gift shop on the street level.

Mrs. Layfield, owner of a company manufacturing ladies' underwear on the third floor, said the accident occurred shortly after 6 p. m. when a lath, that one of the carpenters engaged in remodeling one of the rooms had been trying to pry loose from the ceiling, suddenly gave way, striking the sprinkler head and releasing the water.

Water continued to pour out of the sprinkler until the system was turned off about 6:20 p. m. by Rutland firemen. No one present in the building, according to Mrs. Layfield, could locate the valve controlling the water supply.

After turning off the water, firemen, who arrived in Engines 1 and 3 and the ladder truck, quickly spread canvas salvage covers over merchandise in the gift shop and fruit market. They spent the next hour pushing water out of the building with mops, brushes and squeegees.

No one last night was able to estimate the damage done to merchandise and equipment in the printing offices, gift shop and fruit market; but Ralph R. Bean, assistant fire chief, stated that damage in the gift shop was held to a minimum by the use of salvage covers.

Mrs. Layfield reported a loss of about \$2000 worth of finished garments, adding that the merchandise was insured.

## Firemen Drop Police, 13-4, In 'Classic'

Chances are that Rutland's law enforcement officers are having smoke dreams together with aches and pains this morning after Chief (Leo Durocher) Koltonski's gang from the Rutland Fire department huffed and puffed their way to a ridiculous, 13-4 shellacking over the cops in Rutland's annual baseball "classic" yesterday at St. Peter's field.

A good-sized gathering registered amusement as pitcher Perch Hurley, whose "wlerd" uniform made him resemble the boy who came to town with the eggs, tamed the badge brigade, letting them down with six hits and getting 10 of them out on strikes.

The hook-and-ladder gang made use of three errors and a single in the first inning to grab a cheap three-run lead, but it was genuine plate oomph that set up a five-run spurt in the fifth which helped to make the fray as lop-sided as it was. Dick Barron and "Gookie" Gauthier belted doubles in that stanza and Bunk Seward biffed one to left field that would have been good for an inside-the-park home run were it not for the fact that Bunk's legs buckled between second and third and he had to stop at the hot corner for a rest. Jack Barrett, Myhre and Kent belted singles in that stanza to keep the spurt going.

Officer Charlie Spoon picked up

8124147  
the first run for the cops in the fourth when he reached on an error, swiped second and scored on Ray Mooney's single. Mooney tallied for the cops in the sixth on a single, a passed ball, a stolen base and an error and the officers added two more in the seventh on three hits, an error, a double steal and a wild pitch.

Tom Sears, who started on the mound for Carbine's gang busters, gave way to Buck Barrett in the seventh when the firemen iced the decision with four more runs.

The game was "protested" by officer Frank Ryan, the crooning cop, on a technicality, but Umpire Dip DePan, who realized a life-long ambition by telling the cops where to get off, couldn't be bothered with technicalities.



DECEMBER 9, 1946.

## 2 Local Fires Scar Houses

Crescent St. and Morse Place  
Blazes Cause Some Loss;  
Three Other Calls.

The fire department responded to five calls yesterday which resulted in considerable damage in two instances.

A kitchen blaze at the home of Harris W. Perkins of 72 Crescent street which started in an accumulated pile of papers at 2:27 o'clock in the morning completely scorched the kitchen and ruined a washing machine by melting the blade. Smoke was of such intensity throughout the house that firemen were required to lead Harry J. Adams, a roomer at the place, from the second story out of the building.

Some damage was reported by the department to the residence of Harry A. Levins at 56 Morse place by a partition fire caused by a hot flat iron left on the porch. The call was received at 12:03 in the afternoon.

A chimney fire at 47 Grant avenue was extinguished at 8:07 in the morning and another at 95 Granger street at 2:29 in the afternoon.

Smoke from a stoker in the Rutland Railroad office building that went through an airshaft into adjoining rooms of the Clement bank building precipitated another call at 3 o'clock.

## Damage Slim In Attic Fire

Citizens Brave Rain to Watch  
Granger Street Blaze Extinguished.

An attic fire at 122 Grange street caused a flurry of excitement yesterday afternoon as neighbors braved a winter rain to watch members of the fire department quickly douse the blaze.

Despite an initial billowing of smoke which poured through the roof and windows of the house, Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski reported that only minor damage resulted, consisting mostly of scorched walls.

The chief predicted little damage would result from water used to extinguish the fire. He did not estimate the actual financial loss.

Cause of the fire was not determined but furniture had been removed from the attic earlier in the day and Koltonski expressed belief that it may have started from careless smoking. The house is owned by Napoleon LaBelle of 274 West street and is the residence of Mrs. Anna Fortier.

The department also responded to a call to a grass fire at Columbian avenue yesterday morning and a defective oil burner at 160 Baxter street precipitated another call last night. No damage was reported as a result of these fires. The calls were received at 11:29, 2:50, and 7:14 o'clock.

## Wing Home Hit by Fire

Grass Blaze, Getting Out of  
Control, Spreads to Porch  
of Kingsley Ave. House.

A grass fire at the home of Mrs. Leonard F. Wing widow of Maj. Gen. Wing, resulted in hundreds of dollars in property damage yesterday afternoon, according to Rutland Fire department officials. The blaze was one of several extinguished during the day by the firemen.

Three pieces of apparatus were sent out in response to a telephone alarm at 1:52 p. m. yesterday. The Wing residence is located at 7 Kingsley avenue. Firemen said that Leonard F. Wing, jr., was burning grass when the blaze went out of control and ignited a vine on the front porch of the house.

The heat which followed was so terrific that the entire porch was scorched, and a bay window in the living room in the front of the house was broken. This permitted smoke to enter the house, resulting in damage to the interior. The grass fire also caused shingles on the side of the house to burn. Booster lines were used from all three pieces of fire fighting apparatus, firemen said. The trucks returned to the station at 2:30 p. m.

Quick action in calling out the fire department prevented a serious forest fire on Pine hill yesterday afternoon when a boy living in the neighborhood turned in an alarm. The area is "ripe" for a forest fire, officials declared, because of the presence of dead undergrowth and dry brush. To extinguish the blaze, firemen were obliged to walk a considerable distance from Evergreen avenue. Pack pumps were used in putting out the fire. The alarm was turned in at 2:43 and the trucks returned at 3:15 p. m.

Five other grass fires were extinguished by the service car: On Howard avenue between 3:29 and 3:44 p. m.; 70 Lafayette street between 8:12 and 8:20 p. m.; 84 Killington avenue between 8:47 and 8:55 p. m.; Avenue A between 10:02 and 10:10; and East and East Washington streets between 10:26 and 10:34 p. m. A fire started by burning grease at 24 River street was extinguished between 5:26 and 5:33 p. m. by Engines 1 and 2.

FEBRUARY 10, 1948.

## 2 Helped To Recover From Heater Fumes

Firemen George F. Regan and Dean D. Baird administered oxygen to Baird's wife and mother yesterday morning to help the two women recover from a mild case of carbon monoxide poisoning.

A side-arm gas heater without a vent pipe had consumed most of the oxygen in the kitchen of their home at 40 Grant avenue where Mrs. Dean D. Baird and her mother-in-law, Mrs. Jennie Baird, were doing the family washing.

When they began to feel dizzy shortly after 11 a. m., they took the two baby boys, ages nine months and two years, into a room with fresh air.

Firemen Baird, when notified of the incident, drove to his home with Regan. The women, who were suffering from headaches, were given oxygen and carbon dioxide from an inhalator. Baird reported that the two young children were apparently unaffected by the fumes.

## Cigarette Gets Blame for One Of Five Fires

A fire thought to have been caused by a carelessly-thrown cigarette butt was one of five extinguished by the Rutland fire department over the week-end.

Yesterday's calls were to grass fires on Woodstock avenue at the Rutland town line between 1 and 1:33 p. m., and on Curtis avenue between 2:40 and 3:20 p. m.; and to a chimney fire at 200 Horton street between 2:33 and 3:01 p. m.

On Saturday paint and woodwork were scorched and clothes were set on fire in a clothes hamper on a second floor bedroom at 50 Chestnut avenue. The call was answered between 10:36 and 11 a. m. by Engines 1 and 3.

The fire, which caused considerable damage, according to fire department officials, was thought to have been caused by a cigarette butt thrown into a wastepaper basket.

Also extinguished on Saturday was an automobile fire in the engine of a car at the corner of Merchants Row and Center street between 12:59 and 1:04 p. m., the fire caused by a flooded carburetor, according to fire department officials.

MARCH 4, 1947.

## Blaze Damages Home Owned by Dr. Farnsworth

High winds late yesterday afternoon fanned flames which destroyed the interior of a small home on upper Lincoln avenue, the residence of Dr. A. W. Farnsworth, who is in Florida. The Rutland Fire department, with three trucks, battled the blaze during the storm. The alarm was turned in at 4:58 p. m. and the trucks returned to the station at 5:54.

Firemen stated the blaze originated from an oil heater. The inside of the house was raked by the fire and all of the contents, including antiques, were completely destroyed. During Dr. Farnsworth's absence the house was said to have been occupied by Clarence Bagley.

## Fire in Cleaning Plant One of Five on Week-End

A fire at the Rutland Cleaners and Dyers plant at 77 Woodstock avenue yesterday morning, which burned a hole through the roof, was one of five minor fires put out by the fire department over the week end.

Department officials, who were unable to determine the cause of the fire at the cleaning plant, reported the damage as slight.

Two of the fires were started by blow torches being used to thaw frozen water pipes. At 129 Library avenue, a bathroom partition was ignited shortly before 8 a. m. Saturday and at about 11:30 a. m. yesterday a fire that burned up to the attic was started in a partition at 57 Howe street.

Firemen extinguished a chimney fire at 134 Woodstock avenue shortly after 12:15 p. m. Saturday and answered a needless alarm at 4:14 p. m. from 55 Elm street, made when smoke from smoldering embers at the clean out base of a fireplace came into the house.



MONDAY MORNING, MAY 5, 1947.

## Blast Rocks Gas Station

Explosion at 5:30 A. M. Starts Fire in Novak Block; Second Alarm Sounded.

An explosion of undetermined origin in the Clark Mason filling station in the south end of the Novak block at South Main and Terrill streets about 5:30 a. m. yesterday resulted in a shock which terrified sleeping occupants of upper apartments in the building, blew out three windows, and caused a fire which called out four pieces of the city's fire fighting equipment.

Because of large amounts of inflammable materials present and the consequent danger to life and property, the whistle alarm was sounded five minutes after the arrival of firemen, calling out two other pieces of equipment and call firemen. It was the first time the alarm had been sounded for a fire since a new plan of blowing the alarm only for serious fires, necessitating a second alarm, was put into effect by Chief Alfred H. Koltonski on March 14, when the two-platoon system went into effect.

Deputy Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean announced that actual damage from the blaze was light. He stated that although the cause of the fire is undetermined, it is believed that a spark from an automatic air compressor in the filling station ignited concentrated gaseous vapors in the grease pit, resulting in the explosion which startled tenants of the block, who telephoned the fire station.

The blast blew out three large windows in the front of the filling station, shook the building so that some persons living in the structure thought they were experiencing an earthquake and jolted stock off the shelves of the Eno pharmacy which adjoins the gas station.

The fire spread to containers of grease, oil and a 50-gallon drum of alcohol which was one-third full, but a car which stood over the grease pit was not seriously damaged, firemen said.

On arrival at the building firemen encountered difficulty in entering the filling station because the blast had warped the track on which the overhead garage doors operated, so that they could not at first be opened. Entrance was made through the rear of the building and a side office door.

The inside of the filling station was scorched by the fire. Three booster lines and a large line of two and a half inch hose were used in battling the stubborn blaze.

Among the families residing in the upper apartments of the Novak block who were aroused by the explosion were the Harold Benway, Charles King, the White and Tarbell families, fire authorities said.

The fire was out at 6:05 a. m.

The Novak building was previously threatened by a serious fire on July 2, 1944.

The fire department was called out at 1:10 p. m. yesterday to extinguish a rubbish fire in the rear of the Hotel Brock on South Main street.

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 4, 1946.

## Firemen Squelch Basement Blaze In Stearns Home

Damage amounting to several hundred dollars was done to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick C. Stearns, 57A Prospect street, by a fire which broke out shortly after 6:30 o'clock last night.

Discovered by Mrs. Stearns, who was sitting on the porch and smelled smoke, the fire itself was confined to the basement where it originated. Smoke damage was heavy throughout the house, however.

Summoned by telephone by a neighbor, firemen first on the scene set up a call from box 37 which summoned all apparatus and the city's call and auxiliary firemen. In addition to booster lines, several lines of hose were laid. The fire was brought under control within a few minutes but it was nearly an hour before the last firemen left.

A crowd of several hundred persons, including a large proportion of youngsters, was attracted to the scene. Among the later arrivals were Stearns and his son, Frederick, jr., who lives next door. Both are employed in The Herald's composing room and had just begun their night's work when notified by telephone that the fire was under way.

Except for clearing the house of smoke and making sure that no sparks were left, the fire was virtually out by the time they arrived and by 8 o'clock father and son, satisfied that nothing more could be done before morning, returned to work.

MAY 22, 1947

## Post Road House Burns

Dwelling and Lumber Co. Office, Both Vacant, Destroyed in Blaze.

A combination dwelling and office of the Post Road Lumber company in the town of Rutland was destroyed by fire last night.

The building was vacated a few weeks ago by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Drew and family of Pawlet and the office supplies were moved out at about the same time.

The property is owned by Geno N. Franzoni and Bernard C. Meier as part of the lumber company. Franzoni said last night that he estimated the damage at approximately \$3000.

The Rutland fire department answered a call to the Post Road blaze at 8:57 and was able to put a booster line on the fire. No other water was available.

An estimated 20,000 feet of lumber and a large sawmill not far from the building that burned escaped damage. Fire department officials said that they did not know how the blaze was started.

The fire, visible from Rutland, attracted several hundred spectators.

DECEMBER 15, 1947

## \$2500 Fire Sweeps Home

Blaze in State Street House Is Believed to Have Started in Cellar.

Damage estimated by fire department officials at \$2500 was done to the residence occupied by Mrs. Saline Raymond at 218 State street last night.

Rutland Fire department Engines 1, 2, 3 and the ladder truck were out for almost an hour and a half, from 6:50 p. m. to 8:20 p. m., in fighting the fire which started in a cellar corner near a workbench, and went through partitions up to the attic. The fire was confined to the partitions, attic, and back end of the house, officials said.

Most of the time was taken up by need for overhauling and tossing out smoldering attic clothing, furniture, etc. Firemen had to use ladders, ventilate, put out the fire and mop up as well, they said. Smoke was present practically all through the house. Four 1½-inch lines off the hydrant were required.

Furniture was covered with salvage covers, and water was sent through the attic and back rooms of the house. Fire department officials had not determined the cause of the fire by a late hour last night.

\* Between 5:32 p. m. and 5:50 p. m. Engines 1 and 3 extinguished an automobile fire in a sedan in front of Lord's garage on South Main street. The fire lit up the anti-freeze and gasoline, and was extinguished by boosters and carbon dioxide. The car belongs to Howard E. Underwood of Wallingford, according to the Registry of Motor Vehicles directory.

## Hospital News

A son was born at the Rutland hospital yesterday to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mooney of 77 Forest street, and a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Sherowski of Center Rutland.

Discharged were Mrs. Arthur Smith of 25½ Center street, Mrs. Carl W. Emerson of 31 Baxter street, Mrs. John A. Barney of 60 Prospect street, Michael Grady of 322 West street, Mrs. Thomas Mulaney of 78 Center street, and Clare M. Cole of 74 Baxter street.

Also, Mrs. Robert Reed of Pawlet, Mrs. Carl Erickson of Poultney, Mrs. Arthur Wetherby of Wallingford, Mrs. Malcolm Sargent of Poultney, and Patricia Wenzel of Poultney.

A son was born at the hospital yesterday to Mr. and Mrs. Earl L. Jasmin, jr., of 29 North Main street.



WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 20, 1948.

## Damaged Inn To Be Fixed Immediately

Wheeler Williams Guttled  
by Fire in Early Morning  
Blaze.

No One Hurt

Three Guests and Employee  
Walk Out as Fire Is Con-  
fined to Rear.

Repair of the Wheeler Williams inn on North Main street, gutted by fire that did an estimated \$14,000 damage early yesterday morning, will be started as soon as possible, according to Earle Williams, one of the incorporators.

Williams said yesterday his loss was covered by insurance and that he would start rebuilding immediately.

The fire, discovered by one of the three guests staying at the inn Monday night, originated in the kitchen, swept up through the partitions to the attic where it mushroomed out in all directions throwing heavy smoke out most of the top floor windows.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said the blaze started when a heavy aluminum pan of soup stock, left over a lighted burner, boiled dry. The burner flame wore through the pan and set fire to the remaining grease in the container.

First notification of the fire was received by the department at 3:35 a. m. by telephone. An alarm on box 26 was rung in immediately, Chief Koltonski said.

Three guests and a night attendant made their way to safety carrying a few personal belongings. Dressed in night clothing, the four were taken in by neighbors until they could make permanent arrangements.

Mrs. Samuel Chandler of Manchester, L. I., one of three guests, discovered the blaze. She said she had been unable to sleep and was awake when she smelled smoke.

When she opened the door from her front room to the hall, she said, smoke was billowing through the building and the sound of flames crackling in the rear of the structure was audible.

She aroused her husband who, with Miss Emma Rising of Danby and Hobart N. Smith of 67 Lincoln avenue, an employee, fled the building carrying only a few items of value.

Flames were already filling the attic when firemen arrived on the scene. Working from both the front and rear of the building, the firemen managed to confine the blaze to the kitchen, attic and other sections in the back of the inn, finally subduing the blaze sufficiently to enter the charred area and cut the blaze out of the partitions.

No fire damage was done to the front of the building, but smoke and water was in nearly every section.

Chief Koltonski said the flames had eaten into several of the partitions and worked upward, making it difficult to halt the blaze.

The department laid four 1½-

(Continued on Page Three.)



Herald Photos.

ABOVE: Rutland firemen in action as they quickly subdued the before-dawn fire which yesterday threatened to envelope the Wheeler-Williams building on North Main street.

RIGHT: A coat thrown over her night clothing, one of the guests at Wheeler-Williams leaves the front entrance, guided by a police officer. Three lines of hose can be seen on the steps.

## Fire Guts Local Inn

(Continued from Page One.)

inch hoses and two booster lines during their speedy attempt to confine the fire to the originating area.

The inn, owned by the Smith Williams, Inc., opened only last January 13. It specialized in meals and also supplied living quarters on a small scale.

During the repair of the building, according to an announcement last night, the corporation will reopen Earle & Dick's on Mendon mountain, with the staff from Wheeler Williams. The Mendon mountain restaurant will be opened today, serving until midnight.

Chief Koltonski estimated that damage to the building was approximately \$8000, the remainder being damage to equipment. He said he had no way of estimating how much damage was done to antiques in the building.

Williams said yesterday that he had not made any estimate as yet.

A \$3000 diamondstudded watch belonging to Miss Rising, which was lost in the confusion, was found by the firemen after the



blaze, according to Chief Koltonski. The watch, apparently dropped by Miss Rising when she was leaving the building, was found in the leaves outside the front door while members of the department were picking up hose.



## City's Brand New Fire Truck, To Replace 1919 Pumper, Here

The new fire truck ordered by the city of Rutland last September was delivered here yesterday. The truck was purchased to replace the 27-year-old pumper at Station 2 on Center street, oldest piece of fire fighting equipment in the department.

The new truck is scheduled to undergo a three-hour underwriters' test before acceptance by the city. Fire Chief Koltonski said that the underwriters would be notified today that the vehicle had been delivered.

The truck is now at station 1 on Merchants Row and will remain there, Koltonski said, until it has been accepted, and until construction changes can be made at station 2. The doorway of the building will have to be widened, he stated, as the new truck is too wide to enter the passageway.

The truck was purchased from the Buffalo Fire Appliance corporation, Buffalo, N. Y., at a cost of \$8205.73. The vehicle has a three-man cab, 152 horsepower motor, and among its specifications will deliver 750 gallons of water per minute at 150 pounds of pressure.

It is also equipped with modern fire fighting apparatus including a deluge gun capable of delivering 600 gallons of water per minute at 100 pounds of nozzle pressure.

Authority to purchase a new truck was made at the aldermanic meeting September 18, 1945, following the rendering of a report on the need of new fire fighting equipment by Aldermen John A. M. Hinsman and Robert H. Branchaud.

It was then decided that the new vehicle would replace the pumper purchased in 1919 and still in use at station 2. In their report at that time the aldermen stated that "continued use of the old truck will impair the efficiency of the fire department and does not afford the public adequate fire protection."

The last truck purchased for the department previous to the one delivered yesterday was bought in 1940 at a cost of \$8200. The two are comparable in practically all respects except that the new truck has a three-man cab as compared to six-man cab of the older truck, and is consequently 30 inches shorter in body length.

Koltonski said that the pumper purchased in 1919 will be rebuilt and taken to the Rutland Airport for use as a crash truck.

Modernization of the truck, Koltonski said, will include making over the hose body into a water tank and equipping the truck with two lines of one and a half-inch hose with fog nozzles.

## Interruption

Between mouthfuls of venison the members of the local fire department last night extinguished a chimney fire at 81 South Main street and then returned to their recreation rooms where they were hosts at the third annual Firemen and Policemen Baseball banquet.

The unscheduled interruption in the banquet plans occurred at 7:25 p. m.—just as the firemen started to eat—but Assistant Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean brought his men back in 25 minutes with the report that no damage was caused by the blaze.

There was plenty of damage done, though, to the hunk of venison that the two departments had secured for their annual feed in memory of their baseball classic, won this year by the firemen.

City hall employees—including a goodly number of the fair sex—were present as guests and musical entertainment was supplied by a local band.

Members of the police force—right in character—served as kitchen police during the banquet while Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski alarmed no one with

his plea that the guests "take another helping".

JANUARY 17, 1948

## Fire Truck In Collision

Department's 3d Accident in 33 Years Damages Engine 3 and Pickup.

The third accident in the 33 years since the department was motorized resulted in extensive damage to Engine 3 of the Rutland Fire department yesterday morning.

Local police reported that extensive damage was done to the pickup truck with which the fire truck collided at 10:46 a. m. at the junction of North Main and Terrill streets. Paul M. Bruce of 126 Maple street, driver of the pickup, received cuts on the head and knee for which he was treated by Dr. Sherman A. Cooley of Washington street, the report stated.

Engine 3, driven by Patrick J. Hurley, 34, of 140 South street, was responding to an alarm from 44 North Main street. It was proceeding north on South Main street when it collided with the 1947 truck owned by John L. Cooley of 173 West street, which was going east from West street toward Terrill.

A signpost at the northeast corner of the intersection was snapped off by the truck in the collision, and a metal statue in front of Lindholm's diner representing a slave boy holding a ring for a horse was bent backward. Two barrels of underseal in the truck were sent spilling, some on the front of the fire engine.

According to Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, property damage to the fire engine was the most extensive of the three accidents in which the department has been involved since 1915. Two years ago a woman was slightly injured in an accident on Merchants' Row, and in May of 1933 two people were slightly hurt in an accident at Wales and West streets, he said.

Stephen Austin of Terryville, Conn., serviceman for the Buffalo Fire Appliance company, is expected to arrive today to inspect the fire engine and recommend repairs. Engine 3 was put into service in May, 1936. The engine will be back in service as soon as parts can be procured, Chief Koltonski said. It was taken to Station 2 pending repairs.

Riding with Hurley was Assistant Chief Frank H. Seward, while Fireman Hubert H. Gauthier was on the right side of the fire engine, and Firemen Bernard I. Brothers, Richard Lovett, and Capt. Percy E. Wood were standing with their backs forward to break wind on the left side from which the pickup truck was coming.

Engine 2, also responding to the fire call, had already passed the intersection. According to local police, damage to the pickup truck was done to its right fender, running board, door, window, wheel, taillight, body, rear window, left front fender, running board, rear fender, windshield, frame and other parts. Damage was done to the left fender, headlight, running board, floor platform bell, frame and invisible parts of the fire engine, they said.

The fire to which the apparatus was responding was in latticework in front of garbage pails, officials said.

Later in the day, Engine 2 went to a chimney fire at 118 Park street between 2:12 and 2:30 p. m.

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JANUARY 19, 1948.

## Fire Caution Is Urged

Extra caution has been urged on Rutlanders by Chief Alfred H. Koltonski in view of the fact that the fire department's largest piece of apparatus is temporarily out of service.

Engine 3, involved in an accident Friday morning, is now in Station 2 pending repairs. Stephen Austin of Terryville, Conn., serviceman of the Buffalo Fire Appliance company, was in Rutland over the weekend to inspect damage and recommend repairs.

Broken parts were taken out, the fire engine stripped down and replacement parts ordered. It is expected that the fire engine will be out of service about three weeks until the required parts can be procured. Damage has been estimated at \$3000 with the frame sprung and motor cracked the most serious damage.

The fire department is now operating with only two major pieces of apparatus. Station crews have been moved from Station 2 to Station 1. Pumping capacity is satisfactory, Chief Koltonski said, and with help from West Rutland and Proctor available in case of serious emergency. Engine 3 had carried everything on it, including pump, booster, and 215 feet of ladder.

MAY 19, 1948

## Early Night Fire Stopped

Blaze Near Strand Theater on Wales Street Confined to Apartment.

A fire which threatened a two-story wooden structure on Wales street, adjoining the Strand theater, last night was confined to a second-floor apartment.

The blaze, caused by a defective wall plug connected with an electric refrigerator, originated in the kitchen in the rear of a three-room apartment at 65 Wales street occupied by Richard Lloyd.

Firemen responding with four trucks to Box 45 at 8:50 p. m., attacked the fire with two booster lines through a narrow hallway leading up to the kitchen and through the two rooms to the front of the kitchen.

Heavy smoke, which filled the kitchen, at first obscured the source of the blaze, located in a corner of the room.

The fire was extinguished within half an hour after the first alarm was telephoned in at 8:40 p. m. by Edward Kessop, proprietor of the neighboring Victory Fruit market.

Damage, limited almost entirely to the kitchen, was estimated at about \$1000 to building and contents, Martin L. Connolly, owner of the building, said his loss was covered by insurance.

Lloyd, who was not in the apartment at the time of the fire, said he had left just 15 minutes before smoke pouring out of the kitchen was spotted by George Kessop, whose father turned in the alarm.

Business continued about as usual at the theater and in a restaurant on the first floor, although spectators crowded the street outside.



## City Asking Bids on New Fire Engine

The city is advertising for a new 500-gallons-per-minute triple combination fire engine for the Rutland Fire department, which will serve to replace Engines 2 and 4, according to department officials.

The specifications call for an engine of not less than 100 horsepower on a one-and-a-half ton chassis with cab, heater and defroster, with a pump to deliver 500 gallons per minute at 120 pounds pump pressure, 250 gpm at 200 pounds and 167 gpm at 250 pounds.

Among other requirements, the truck must carry a 250 gallon booster tank with complete baffling within and have room for 1000 feet of two-and-a-half inch double jacket fire hose or 600 feet of two-and-a-half inch hose and 600 feet of one-and-a-half inch hose.

"Bidder will allow," the specifications state, "for two America LaFrance trucks. One in running condition and one in poor condition."

Engine 2, which was built around 1918, has been in bad shape, officials stated, since its pump broke down during the flood. The pump cannot be repaired and the truck is so old that the purchase of a new pump would be uneconomical.

Engine 4, which was built in 1924, is equipped with a 700-gallon booster tank and has been held in reserve during recent years.

The new engine, it was stated, will be used as a standard piece of firefighting apparatus and will also be equipped to handle grass and forest fires.

## Small Damage Done by Five Week-End Fires

Rutland Fire department apparatus responded to five calls over the week-end, four of them on Saturday, three involving chimneys, and none resulting in heavy damage.

Engine 1 was out between 9:37 and 10:32 a. m. Saturday to the West Proctor road to a fire in a creamery there, involving a defective chimney, and resulting in moderate damage. The blaze was extinguished with the aid of a booster tank.

Engines 1 and 3 went out to 58 Rover street between 5:27 and 5:50 p. m. Saturday to a fire in rubbish in a shed attached to the house. Some damage resulted to the shed and from smoke.

Engines 1 and 3 were out to 98 Plain street between 5:57 and 6:15 p. m. Saturday and Engines 2 and 3 to 10 Spellman terrace between 6:40 and 7 p. m., both incidents involving chimney fires.

Firemen responded to a call from the Rutland Paint and Glass company on Center street at 3:23 p. m. yesterday when burning wiring in an electric motor connected to a furnace began to smoke. Fire officials, who sent Engines 1 and 3 to the fire, reported the damage limited to the motor.

## Children Plus Matches Equal Busy Firemen

Children playing with fire kept the Rutland fire department on the jump yesterday noon.

The engines went out at 12:15 p. m. to the home of Thomas F. Mangan at 72 East street, where a child had laid a hot flat-iron on a linoleum floor.

Firemen said the resulting fire was caught just in time. The fire had burned through the linoleum and the top part of the flooring.

The trucks returned to the station at 12:35 p. m., but were called out two minutes later to 9 James street, where a child of Elwyn A. Layden had ignited curtains in an upstairs room as he was playing with matches.

The room was gutted and the rest of the house suffered extensive smoke and heat damage, according to firemen, who said that the blaze had gained considerable headway before the alarm was sounded.

The first of four calls received by the fire department yesterday came at 10:05 a. m., where fire which started from blazing paraffine caused minor damage to the kitchen of John E. Dinsmore of 251 Lincoln avenue.

George M. Berry of 141 State street, who ignited a mattress while he was smoking in bed, brought firemen out at 4:45 p. m. for the fourth time. Damage was confined to the mattress.

## Fire Flares In Office Block

Blaze in Trash Basket Extinguished Without Damage; 4 Trucks Answer Alarm.

A fire in a large trash basket in a janitors' room on the second floor of the Gryphon Building brought four fire trucks on the run at 6:57 p. m. yesterday but the flare-up was taken care of before damage could be done.

Smoke filled part of the corridor on the second floor and alerted Mortimer Tompkins, a dental laboratory technician in the building, who doused water on the flames. By the time firemen arrived the fire was almost out, they said.

Chief Alfred H. Koltanski said there was "no evidence" that a firebug was at work. Probable cause of the fire, he said, was a still-smouldering cigarette dumped into the trash from an office waste basket.

A grass fire on Avenue C brought the smokeaters running at 6:10 p. m. yesterday in the only other call of the day. No damage was done and flames were out within a few minutes.

## Fire Started By Eight-Year-Old Destroys Garage

A fire deliberately set by an eight-year-old boy yesterday destroyed a garage and several hundred dollars worth of personal property belonging to Mrs. Addie White of 26 Killington avenue.

Flames, sweeping rapidly through the dry wooden building, endangered the White home about 20 feet away before being checked by firemen from both stations.

The blaze was first noted by neighbors across the street, who telephoned in an alarm at 3:35 p. m.

Mrs. White said the garage contained several Persian rugs, valuable winter coats, a victrola and a number of records as well as numerous other articles. She estimated the value of the contents at well over \$500.

Firemen said the garage and contents appeared to be a total loss from the combined fire, coke and water damage.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltanski said the boy admitted starting the fire when questioned by firemen and police officers.

While the Killington avenue fire was still blazing, firemen were called to East Washington street, where a car being repaired was reported afire. No fire was found.

## Alert Motorist Saves Burning Fuel Oil Truck

An unidentified motorist yesterday saved Harold A. Eddy of 231 Coolidge avenue from possible serious loss when the back of his fuel oil truck caught fire.

The unknown driver, observing the rear end of the truck blazing, pulled ahead of Eddy and stopped him at the corner of Stratton road and Killington avenue.

Firemen, called at 2:55 p. m., said the fire evidently started in a small electric motor. Damage was confined to the hose.

The burning oil truck represented the second trip made by the fire department to Stratton road in less than two hours yesterday afternoon.

A fire caused by defective stove pipe opening had brought the department to the Crystal Ice company building on Stratton road at 1:18 p. m. Use of a booster line confined damage to the partition in which the fire started.

## Sad Slip!

There is at least one 11-year-old boy in Vermont today who doesn't care to be a fireman.

The boy is Stanley Stewart of Pawlet who was taken to the Rutland hospital yesterday with a sprained back after falling off the firepole in the Rutland fire station.

Along with other school children who were in the city to view the Freedom Train, Stanley was taking part in a conducted tour of the local station when he fell from the firepole. The children were sliding the pole under the supervision of the department members when Stanley slipped.

The youth was treated at the scene of the accident and at the hospital by Dr. W. J. Powers who said last night that Stanley was suffering from a sprained back, shock, light bruises and a general shaking up.



## Sparks Set Two Blazes

Store Awnings Twice Ignited Early in Morning; Hotel Blaze Doused at 9:10.

Sparks from a chimney which ignited awnings on the second story of the rear of the Economy store on Merchants Row were responsible for two alarms answered by the Rutland Fire department at 4:34 and at 5:36 yesterday morning.

At 9:10 the fire fighting personnel and equipment were called to another fire in the business section, this time at the Morris inn on West street near Church street.

A booster line was used by firemen in putting out the awning fire at the Economy store. According to Deputy Chief Ralph R. Bean, the weather reading was two below zero at the time.

A second telephone alarm to the same store was received at 5:36 o'clock when another awning was found to be smoldering from the effects of the chimney sparks.

The fire in the Morris inn was confined to an area of flooring between the second and third floors. Firemen said that an accumulation of dust which formed in the flooring reached an ignition stage from close contact with hot steam pipes. The flooring was ripped out and a booster line used in putting out the fire. Both a telephone and box alarm 41 gave the signal of the fire. There was no occupant in the room where the fire was centered.

Fire originating in the chimney of a home owned and occupied by T. A. Towne of the Notch road was confined to wall partitions last night by the Rutland Fire department. Slight damage was done to wall partitions in and around the chimney area.

MARCH 5, 1948

## Woman Hurt In Fall as Fire Damages House

Mrs. Catherine Fournier of 55 Prospect street bruised her leg when she fell downstairs while fire did considerable damage to three rooms of her house yesterday.

Rutland Fire department Engines 1, 2 and the service car were out for an hour and 10 minutes starting at 11:34 a. m. and used two booster lines to fight the fire which was caused by a defective oil burner, according to Fire department officials.

Considerable damage resulted to a living room and kitchen on the second floor where the fire started and a dining room on the first floor into which kerosene leaked through cracks in the ceiling. Mrs. Fournier was treated by Dr. Thomas F. McGarry.

No damage resulted from another fire caused by a defective oil burner at 10 Tremont street to which Engines 1 and 2 and the service car went out between 3:34 and 3:45 p. m.; and by a chimney fire at 31 Elm street to which the same apparatus went between 4:54 and 5:08 p. m.

Between 7:18 and 7:32 a. m. yesterday Engines 1 and 2 went to a stovepipe fire at 50 Summer street.

## Horse Killed In Barn Fire

Blaze, Reportedly Started by Child at Play, Guts Allen St. Structure.

A fire reportedly set by a playful child, yesterday gutted a barn belonging to Robert G. Hesse of 93 Allen street and snuffed out the life of a horse stabled in the structure.

Capt. Ralph R. Bean of the Rutland fire department said the blaze charred the inside and outside of the barn before the flames were brought under control.

Several unsuccessful attempts were made to bring the stabled horse through the fire.

Capt. Bean said the fire was started by a five-year-old neighbor's child who had started a small blaze against one side of the tar covered building.

The department was called to the scene at 30:01 p. m. and put down two one and a half inch lines and a booster line to quell the blaze.

The local department also extinguished nine grass fires, two chimney fires and a fire in an automobile over the week-end.

Both chimney fires were on Saturday. The first was at 48 Forest street and the second at 26 Hopkins street. No damage resulted from either.

Yesterday at 12:36 a. m. a blaze in a car standing at the rear of the Hotel Bardwell was put out by the firemen. The vehicle belonged to A. W. Macauley.

The grass fires—seven of them yesterday—kept the department on the move during the intervals between the other blazes.

DECEMBER 10, 1949

## West Street Garage Burns

Chief Koltonski Estimates \$1000 Damage From Blaze He Discovered Himself.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski yesterday estimated damage at \$1000 resulted from the fire in a garage at 399 West street which he discovered Saturday night.

Chief Koltonski, who noted the blaze as he drove by, telephoned the department at 7:27 p. m. from a nearby home. The garage was closed at the time.

Firemen said the blaze started in a partition from an inadequately insulated stove pipe running from the garage operated by Guido L. Accorsi.

The fire spread into a storage garage used by the Seven-Up Bottling company of Rutland which is contained in the same building.

Firemen were able to drive an oil tank truck out of the Accorsi garage before the vehicle caught fire.

The roof of the garage was charred, a Seven-Up truck damaged and a number of wooden crates burned by the fire.

A fireman, Hubert Gauthier, suffered a slight knee injury while fighting the smoky blaze.

The fire fighters lost the use of a booster line when the battery in engine No. 4 went dead. A 1½-inch line was also used to quench the blaze.

The building is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ricci of 197 West street.

## Firemen Win Smoke Battle

Subdue Blaze on Wales Street Which Threatens 3-Story Building.

Rutland firemen won a brief but intense battle with smoke yesterday afternoon in subduing a blaze which threatened the three-story building at 15-19 Wales street.

The fire, which started in a small basement storeroom, cooked several hundred pounds of bananas belonging to Pico Produce company, but otherwise did little damage.

The clouds of dense smoke, which had completely filled the cellar by the time the fire department was called, were apparently discovered about the same time by three boys.

Two of the boys—Stanley Mun-sat, 9, of 89 Edgerton street and Richard Coburn, 10, of 87 Edgerton street—saw the smoke pouring out through windows around the stairs leading to Goyette's barber supply shop and Seward's grocery as they were returning from Dana school.

The third, Elmer Erickson, an employe of the produce company, was greeted with a cloud of smoke when he went to investigate the banana situation.

The firemen, who responded at 4 p. m. with two trucks, set up two fans to draw out the smoke before they were able to get at the blaze.

The fire apparently started from a small gas heater used in ripening the bananas. Enough heat penetrated the metal protecting the heater to ignite the cardboard-lined walls.

The department was called at 12:33 p. m. to extinguish a grass fire at the home of Charles J. Dansreau of 409 West street.

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## Firemen Fight Railroad Blaze In Locomotive

Rutland firemen, called out early Saturday morning to a blaze in the Rutland railroad roundhouse, were able to confine the damage to a locomotive cab and the cupola.

The fire was apparently started when an open flame torch used by railroad workmen ignited waste material in the cab, firemen stated.

The flames leaped upward about 12 feet to set the cupola roof afire, it was reported.

Railroad workers put a stream of water on the blaze in the locomotive cab, later taking the engine out of the roundhouse to complete the job.

Firemen, called at 4:01 a. m. used a booster line on the roof and were able to limit damage to the cupola and a small section of the roof surrounding it.

The cab of the locomotive suffered considerable damage.

The department made a run to Leeds furniture store on Merchants row at 5:18 p. m. Saturday, but found no fire there.

A burned-out transformer in a fluorescent light caused a smoke-like odor which resulted in the alarm, firemen said.



## Store Owner Badly Burned

Edward Kessop in Critical Condition After Blaze in Rear of Shop.

Edward Kessop, 56, of 81 Granger street was in critical condition last night at the Rutland hospital from burns suffered yesterday when he was cloaked in flames while heating paint brushes in the rear of his store, the Victory Fruit and Produce market at 63 Wales street.

The accident occurred about 1:20 p. m., when a bucket of three paint brushes he was heating on a two-burner gas stove caught fire.

Passersby caught the man as he rushed screaming into the street attempting to beat out the flames with a blanket he snatched in his flight. Donald Stratton of 111 Church street, driving by in a car, and Charles Hill, employed at a nearby garage, both dashed to Kessop and rolled him on the sidewalk to smother the fire. Hill, who was working inside the garage, said he was aware of the accident when he heard the screams.

Both Hill and Michael Phillips, who operates a restaurant in the same block with the fruit store, called the fire department. Engines 1 and 3 were sent to the store, and firemen extinguished the blaze in approximately 20 minutes.

Dr. Victor J. Pisanelli, who was called to the scene, treated Kessop before he was taken by ambulance to the hospital. Last night Dr. Pisanelli said that Kessop's condition was "critical," with extensive second and third degree burns of both legs, the left arm and left side.

Spectators who quickly gathered in front of the store, said they heard no explosion, but were attracted by the smoke and screams of Kessop.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said that slight damage was done to the rear room, which was used for storage. The wall was scorched and most of the damage was from the smoke. The main part of the building was untouched by the flames.

Emile Kessop, of 79 Granger street, a son, who arrived after the fire, said that they were repainting



Herald Photo—Merusi

Edward Kessop, 56, owner of Victory Fruit and Produce market on Wales street, writhes in pain as a fireman and volunteer bend over him to carry him to an ambulance. Kessop, burned about the body when his clothing became ignited as he was heating brushes in his store, is in a critical condition in Rutland hospital.

the front room of the store, and that his father was getting the brushes ready.

Cause of the fire was still under investigation last night. Chief Alfred J. Koltonski said that the bucket might have boiled over or that fumes may have caused the flare-up.

The fire department reported that no damage resulted from a chimney fire at the home of Mrs. William Howe of 26 Hopkins street nor from a grass fire at the Billings' lot on South Main street. The chimney fire was at 11:34 a. m. and the grass fire at 12:40 p. m.

## New Fire Truck For Proctor

(Special to The Herald.)

PROCTOR, Aug. 24.—The village of Proctor has a new fire truck.

Similar to 20 such trucks recently delivered by the manufacturer, American-LaFrance-Foamite corporation, to the city of New York, the new triple combination truck is powered by a 12-cylinder engine that astonished many observers during its recent acceptance test here by its quietness as compared to its familiar predecessor.

With a rated 190 horse power, the truck passed its Underwriters' acceptance test and the test and demonstration here by showing its ability to pump an average of 761 gallons of water a minute for two hours, from suction, with a pump pressure of 150 pounds per square inch. During a short run at high speed, the pump developed an output of nearly 1000 gallons a minute.

The engine is mounted behind the cab, which accommodates five men and, because of its location, gives the driver excellent visibility while the shorter wheelbase made possible by the design improves the maneuverability of the machine.

ly covered by insurance according to officials of the company.

Saturday's blaze was the second disaster which has hit the plant, the first being the 1947 flood when the plant was badly damaged and closed for some time.

## Start Repair Of Laundry

Saturday Morning Fire Causes Estimated \$75,000 Damage to Modern Linen.

Work has already started on the renovation of the Modern Linen laundry on Cleveland avenue which was gutted by flames in an early morning fire Saturday.

Damage to the building and its contents was estimated between \$50,000 and \$75,000 last night by Irving Levenson, manager of the local plant.

Levenson said linen service will continue uninterrupted and that family service of laundry and dry cleaning is expected to be in full operation by tomorrow.

Fatal appraisal of the damage will be made today by Jack Doherty, chief engineer of the Modern Linen plants in New York city. Doherty flew here yesterday afternoon along with owner Louis Gordon and three other officials of the company. Gordon returned to New York yesterday after surveying the damage.

The fire was discovered when an alert telephone operator at the local exchange noticed that there was something wrong with the phone line at the plant about 3:50 a. m. Saturday. She summoned the local police department which sent two officers to investigate. The officers spotted the fire and rang a general alarm.

Levenson was high in his praise of the Rutland fire department which held the blazing inferno to the soiled linen room in which it started. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said that three lines of hose were used to extinguish the blaze.

The blaze, which was witnessed by only a few onlookers, sent high columns of smoke into the air. Firemen battled the fire from the roof top and the inside of the building for exactly two hours before they had extinguished the last spark.

Chief Koltonski said the front part of the building, which houses the family laundry service, was saved partially by the work of three fire doors which closed automatically, keeping the fire confined to the back of the building where the company's own linen was laundered.

Levenson stated that all of the laundry lost in the blaze was owned by the company and that there was no personal laundry or dry cleaning destroyed.

A big part of the damage was the result of laundry machines either being destroyed or badly damaged. All electric wiring in the building was destroyed by the intense heat from the blaze and windows were smashed and broken throughout the plant.

Levenson also said it would be necessary to repair the roof which was burned to some extent.

Temporary electric wiring was installed at the plant yesterday and rebuilding will commence today in the damaged part of the structure.

The linen service, interrupted by the fire, will be carried on through the facilities of other plants in New York city. Two trucks were sent to New York yesterday afternoon with linen from the local plant and will return with fresh linen tomorrow.

In order that approximately 100 workers who are employed at the linen plant may not be out of work the service will be restored to working order as soon as possible. Levenson stated.

Investigations will be carried on today to determine the cause of the fire. All of the loss was complete-

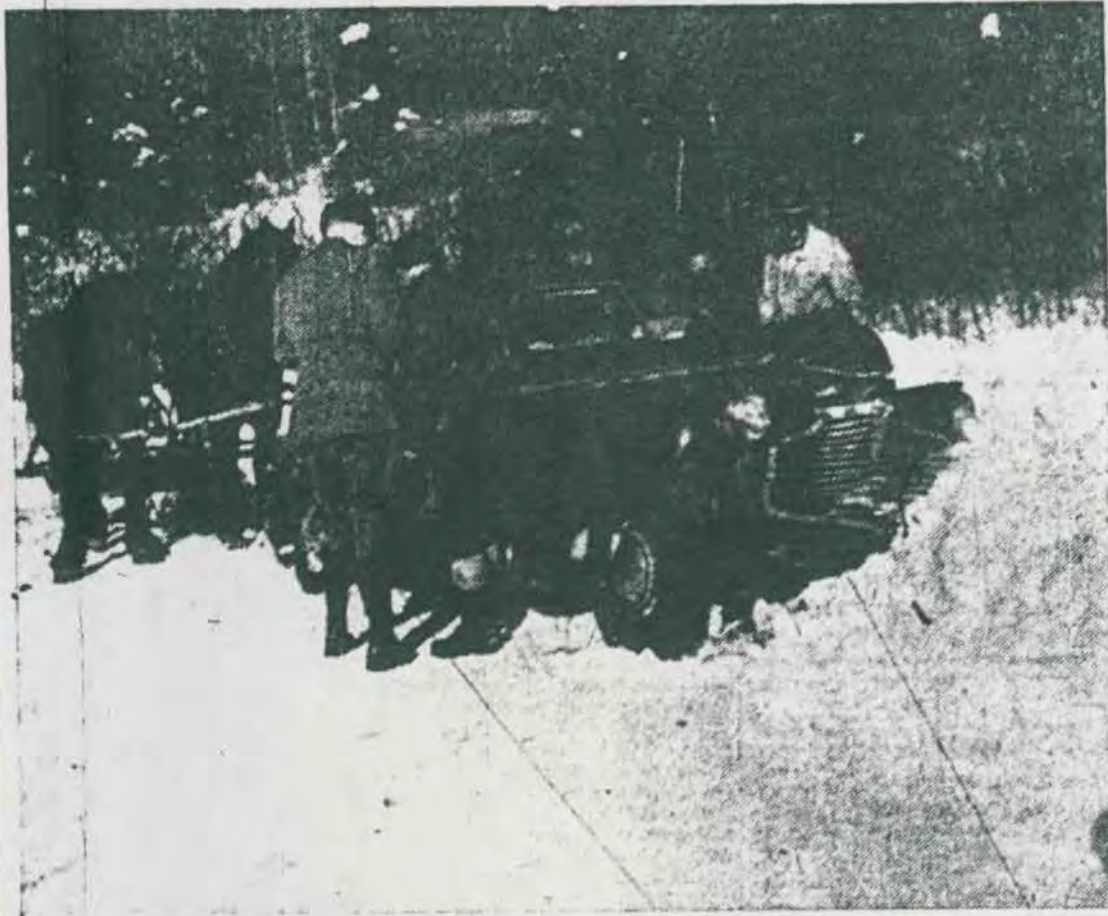
LAND DAILY HERALD, MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 25, 1947.



Checking the nozzle pressure gauge during the acceptance test of the new triple combination fire truck in Proctor is Cecil Curtis, (at right) assistant chief of the village fire department, while a representative of the manufacturer watches the controls.



# Mother, Son And Logging Camp Worker Killed, Two Others Hit By Gas Fumes in Snowbound Car



Herald Photo.

Albert Tessier, State Trooper Paul Snow and Rutland firemen in charge of Assistant Chief Ralph R. Bean (in light jacket) view the car in which two persons died of carbon monoxide poisoning and three others were overcome, one later dying at the Rutland hospital. When the car slid into a snowbank on the Wheelerville road at the foot of Mendon mountain Saturday night after a shopping trip in Rutland, the group had sought protection from the extreme cold while awaiting help in getting the car back on the road.

Group Returning to Wheelerville After Shopping Trip Overcome After Automobile Slides Off Road.

Found in AM

Tragedy Discovered by Husband and Father of Two Victims After 11-Mile Hike With Team.

Three persons died from carbon monoxide fumes inhaled while keeping warm in a snow-bound sedan marooned at the foot of Mendon mountain early yesterday and two others last night were still in critical condition at the Rutland hospital.

Mrs. Methilda Tessier, 29-year-old wife of a Mendon lumberman, and her four-year-old son, Glen Frederick, were found dead in the automobile soon after 9 a. m. yesterday by Albert Tessier, husband and father of the gas victims.

Oliver Disorda, 29, of Forest Dale, a World War II veteran died from asphyxiation nine hours after he was taken to the hospital here in critical condition.

Still in an unconscious state and being treated for the gas poisoning last night were Mrs. Norma M. Panoushek, 24, of West Haven and Herman Damon, 57, formerly of Brandon.

Dr. Henry J. Fregosi of Proctor is attending Damon and stated last night his condition was serious but recovery looked favorable. Dr. Thomas A. Keenan is Mrs. Panoushek's doctor.

The group, employed by Tessier at his logging camp in Wheelerville, was found overcome at 9:20 a. m. yesterday after the employer had driven his team 11 miles in sub-freezing temperatures from his camp to the automobile, stalled on the Wheelerville road, about a half mile distant from the Woodstock highway.

Tessier informed state police, summoned 40 minutes later, that the car had skidded into a snowbank about 9 p. m. Saturday while the group was returning from a shopping trip in Rutland.

Efforts to free the car proved futile so he went to his camp in the Wheelerville section of Mendon, 11 miles away, in a panel truck driven by Damon which was following his machine.

After towing equipment was picked up and put in the truck, Damon started back to haul the car out of the embankment while he, Tessier, remained at the camp to prepare a meal and warm the place up.

Feeling exhausted, Tessier fell asleep and awoke at daybreak to find none had returned. He hitched a team of horses to a bobsled and started back to the car.

Tessier and police theorized that Damon joined the others in the car to warm up before starting the task of towing the sedan, which was owned by Disorda.

States Attorney Robert T. Stafford said last night that further investigation will be made today after the survivors regain consciousness. He said that they will be questioned as to what happened after Damon arrived with the towing equipment.

Reconstructing, as nearly as he could, exactly what happened for Stafford and State Trooper Kenneth J. Fletcher, Tessier said that his family and his working crew went to Rutland Saturday afternoon to shop and see a movie.

They started back for the camp in the early evening with a \$60 food purchase. Tessier, his wife and son, and Mrs. Panoushek and Disorda rode in the sedan while Damon drove Tessier's panel truck.

The car went off the Wheelerville road on a slight right-hand curve and into a ditch about one-

half mile away from the main road, at the foot of Mendon mountain.

Tessier shovelled around the car in an effort to clear off the snow but the car kept skidding deeper into the embankment.

When Damon came along in the truck, the two decided to head back to the camp and get some towing equipment. Arriving at the camp, Damon and Tessier loaded the truck with chains and rope for towing.

Damon headed back to the car while Tessier remained at the camp to prepare some food and warm the place up for the others when they returned. After cooking the meal, he continued, he was so exhausted he fell asleep until sunrise.

Upon discovering that the others had not returned, he hitched a team of horses to a bobsled and started out for the snow-bound car. It was so cold, he told authorities, that he had to walk the entire 11 miles to keep warm.

As soon as he arrived at the car, he looked at his watch and read it as 9:20. The car was just as he had left it and the truck was parked in the road alongside.

Disorda was in the driver's seat, Mrs. Panoushek was in the middle and his wife was on the right hand side of the front seat of the car. Tessier's son was lying down in the rear of the car with Damon seated on the left hand side.

The motor of the car, he said, was still running and "it was terrifically warm." His next movements, as told to the state's attorney, were opening all windows and doors, shutting off the motor and shaking each person in an effort to start circulation in their bodies.

At first glance, he said, his wife and baby looked dead. His fears were affirmed after efforts to stir them failed. The other three he left breathing before he started off for help.

After failing to start the truck, he hitched his team to the frozen truck and had them draw it until it started to run. Then he unhitched the team and drove to Hayden's filling station at the corner of Woodstock avenue and Lafayette street, where the fire department and state police were telephoned for.

Acting promptly, State Trooper Paul Snow and Assistant Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean, along with other firemen, arrived at the scene about five minutes after the call was put through at 10:10 a. m.

The fire department's resuscitator was used alternately on all five gas victims with Bean and Firemen Patrick J. Hurley, George Regan and John T. Ballard pumping as much oxygen as was possible with the one machine.

Damon and the child were taken to the Rutland hospital by Officer Snow; Mrs. Tessier was taken in Chief Bean's car; and Disorda and Mrs. Panoushek were taken by ambulance.

Trooper Snow gave permission to move the car, which was towed out by the horse team, and a nearby resident was given permission to take the groceries to the camp.

After the group was taken to the hospital, Tessier turned the team in the direction of home and started them back to the camp. A dog, whose master was the four-year-old lad, was also commanded to return to the camp but refused to do so, staying on howling, near the sedan.

MONDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 7, 1949.

## Pittsford Firm Burns

A. Langlois & Sons Manufacturers North of Rutland Hit by Early Morning Blaze.

Rutland and Pittsford Fire departments were fighting early this morning to save the A. Langlois & Son home threatened by flames that had already destroyed two connecting manufacturing plants located on Route 7 about six miles north of Rutland.

The fire, of undetermined origin, was discovered about 1:45 a. m.

At 2:30 a. m. observers reported one section of the manufacturing plant destroyed, the other in flames, and the house blistered by heat.

The plant manufactures cast aluminum reproductions of "slave boy" hitching posts and specially designed garden, porch and patio furniture.

The plant—with about 30,000 square feet of floor space—has been idle about a month.

First alarm of the fire was given by David Langlois, who raced to the nearby home of Roy Burroughs to telephone for help.

The Pittsford department responded. The Rutland department sent Engine No. 4 to the scene within a short time.

Water was being pumped from a nearby brook.

No estimate of the damage was available this morning.



# \$80,000 Fire Levels Whitcomb Hardware Block in Fair Haven; Six Fire Companies Battle Blaze

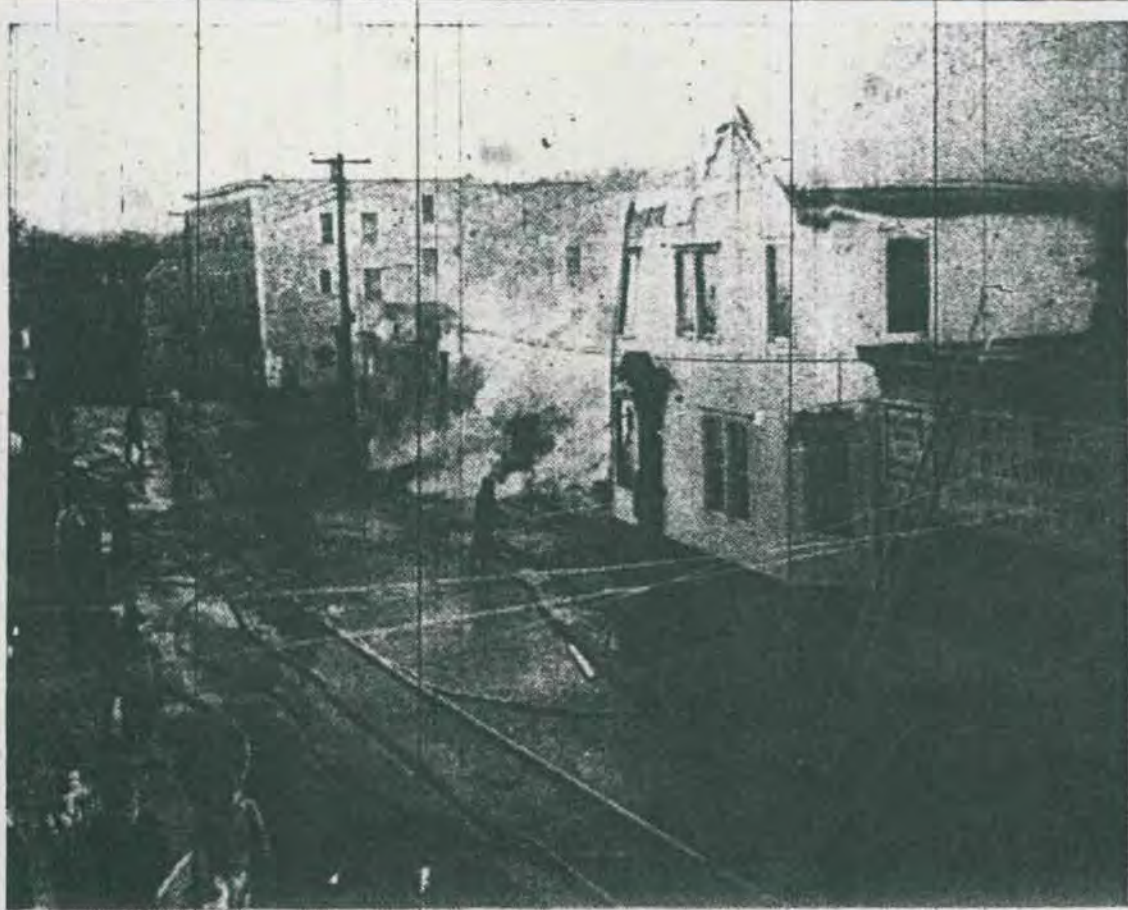


Photo by B&amp;M Studio, Granville, N. Y.

Firemen from six communities battle the \$80,000 blaze that destroyed Whitcomb's Hardware store in Fair Haven yesterday and threatened the town's business district. The hardware store was completely destroyed and only the front wall of the storage house next to it remained standing. (Other pictures Page 3.)

Telephone Operator Sends Out Calls for Help as Wind Threatens to Whip Flames Through Town.

## Rutland Aids

Departments From Vermont and New York Rush to Help Quell Outbreak; Homes Evacuated.

(Special to The Herald.)

FAIR HAVEN, Jan. 11.—Whitcomb's Hardware store, valued at an estimated \$80,000, burned to the ground this afternoon while six fire departments struggled in below-freezing temperatures to prevent flames from spreading through the entire Fair Haven business district.

Lashed by a high wind, the blaze also threatened tenements on Main street.

Prompt response by fire departments from Rutland, Poughkeepsie, Castleton, Whitehall, N. Y., and Granville, N. Y., to a plea for assistance from Mrs. Margaret Raynes, chief operator of the Fair Haven exchange, was credited with saving the property.

Whitcomb's Hardware store, which had been completely remodeled December 7, burned like tissue paper. The building next to it, used chiefly for storage, and several sheds in the rear of the two-story wooden frame structure were also lost.

Damage was at least partially covered by insurance.

Paint blistered and plate glass windows broke in four stores on the other side of the street.

Occupants of houses at 21, 23 and 25 Main street, adjacent to the corner of the Liberty street hardware store, moved belongings outdoors when the fire threatened to engulf the entire block.

Pliny Whitcomb, 61, whose life's dream was realized last month when he opened his new, modern store, one of the largest in the state, helped fight the flames.

The heat was so intense that a hose of the Fair Haven Fire department burned when firemen attempted to carry it behind the building.

Whitcomb watched smoke billow lazily toward the cold blue sky from the ruins of his store and then departed.

Eugene Crowley, chief engineer of the Fair Haven volunteer fire department, said there was never a chance of saving the store. He said it was almost gone before effective means to combat the flames could be mustered.

Raymond Little, proprietor of Little's market—across the street from Whitcomb's—was one of the first to see the fire. He notified Mrs. Raynes at the telephone exchange and told her to call outside departments.

Little said the blaze seemed to start simultaneously all over the store. As clerks and customers rushed outside, the store filled with smoke. At first there were no flames, Little said.

Suddenly, the huge plate glass store-front, which covered both stories of the building, shattered. Flames soared skyward when air rushed in. Little said he could hear a series of minor explosions as ammunition and bottled gas tanks exploded.

The store, with most of its large inventory, was consumed almost immediately.

Frank Whitcomb of Granville, N. Y., brother of the owner, said \$80,000 would be a "pretty close estimate of the damage."

Whitcomb and his brother were taking inventory in the storage building and Edith Whitcomb, sister of the owner, was on the second floor of the store when the fire started.

The buildings were insured by the J. C. Durick agency of Fair Haven. Officials declined to state how much of the loss is covered.

Once before, in December, 1918, Whitcomb was wiped out by fire. At that time he was located in what is now Little's market, across the street from its present site.

Whitcomb started in business at Fair Haven in 1905 as a harness maker.

Chief Engineer Crowley said it was difficult to rouse the volunteer fire department's 22 men. Crowley explained that the alarm was broken in the December sleet storm and has not been repaired yet.

"I had plenty of help," he said, "but none of the men were experienced. It wasn't until the departments from other towns got here that we were able to make much headway."

Crowley said he set up a 500 h.p. pump in the Castleton river, about a quarter of a mile from the fire.

"Somebody must have turned off the valve," Crowley declared, "because I couldn't get any water at first. It was off when I went back to check and turn it on."

Calls for neighboring fire departments were placed shortly after 1 p. m. The Granville department arrived about 1:10 and Rutland reached the scene shortly thereafter, Crowley said. The Castleton, Poughkeepsie and Whitehall departments also responded promptly.

Hose was laid from the river along River street to the rear of the blaze, protecting barns and sheds used for storage and tenements along Main street.

Telephone and light wires were burned and service interrupted for about half an hour.

Heat from the burning buildings broke windows in Little's Market, the A. C. Wilson Barber shop, the Grange hall and the Fair Haven Postoffice. It blistered paint on Little's market.

Firemen were hampered by the 15 degree temperature and ice that froze on their uniforms.

Ice on the roads made it slippery and dangerous underfoot, but no injuries were reported.

The heavy smoke cloud was visible as far away as Castleton.

A shed behind 23 Main street, owned by the Stanard estate, was burned. It contained furniture stored by Mrs. Mitchell.

Mrs. Mary Vespar, who lives downstairs at 23 Main street, said her winter's supply of wood, stored in a small shed behind her apartment, was destroyed.

Two families at 25 Main street, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Martin and their two children, and Mr. and Mrs. William Marcell and their six children, moved furniture, food and clothing, when flames threatened the block. Miss Mattie Horton, who lives downstairs at 25 Main street, refused to move her furniture.

Chief Engineer Crowley said it was the worst fire in Fair Haven in 10 years.

AUGUST 24, 1949.

## Children Start Fire at Home With Matches

A blaze started by children playing with matches resulted in considerable damage to the home of Romeo J. Lancour on Emmett avenue, Rutland firemen reported yesterday.

Firemen, who were out almost an hour after receiving the call at 10:50 a. m., experienced some difficulty in extinguishing the blaze.

The fire started in a closet and was difficult to get at, firemen said. Air packs had to be used to get into the smoke-filled attic.

Firemen said that the clothing in the closet was a total loss, the closet itself was heavily charred and the adjoining bedroom was scorched by fire, which burned drapes throughout the room.

The rest of the house suffered smoke damage, firemen reported.

## Explosion Of Furnace Fails To Cause Fire

An oil furnace in the basement of the Kong Chow restaurant at 48 Center street exploded Saturday about 9:28 p. m., but no one was injured and damage was confined to the furnace.

The blast blew off the door and stack of the furnace, but did not start a fire. No explanation of the explosion could be found.

An unknown celebrant rang in the new year for the fire department by pulling box 114 at the corner of Library and Chestnut avenues at 2:15 a. m. Saturday. Two trucks responded to the false alarm.

Another box alarm at 3:44 a. m. Saturday called firemen to Pat's Fixit shop at the corner of East and Terrill streets. A blaze started in hay chaff on the floor was extinguished before any damage resulted.

Firemen said the fire probably was started by a careless smoker.





Photos by B&M Studio, Granville, N. Y.

Three members of the Rutland fire department (above) battle the \$80,000 fire at Whitcomb's Hardware store in Fair Haven. (l. to r.) Arthur Myhre, Charles Lancour, and John W. Barrett. (Left) residents of Main street tenements threatened by the blaze piled all their personal belongings along Route 4. Fanned by a strong east wind, the fire menaced an entire block before it was finally brought under control.



## \$10,000 Fire At Pittsford

Annex of Historic Inn Destroyed in Blaze Started by Short Circuit.

(Special to The Herald)

PITTSFORD, Nov. 4.—Hissing flames which licked through the annex of the Pittsford Inn here this afternoon doing an estimated \$10,000 damage were successfully subdued only after a three-hour battle by fire-fighters hindered by lack of water.

Origin of the blaze that threatened the main brick building—one of Pittsford's landmarks—was determined by the owner and Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski of Rutland as a short circuit in the motor of the refrigeration plant located in the cellar of the annex.

Bystanders and others escaped possible injury when the safety valve on the bottled gas plant exploded causing flames to shoot up 5 feet in the air.

Chief Koltonski said if the safety valve had failed to work, the metal parts would have been blown to bits and rained on persons in the vicinity.

The owner, J. Fred Wenton, alone in the building, discovered the fire about 2:40 p. m. after smelling smoke in the living room of the main building where he was reading.

Rushing through the four rooms in the annex and into the kitchen, Wenton started to descend the cellar stairs but had to turn back because of the thick smoke. Immediately after, he ran to a neighbor's house and called the Rutland Fire department which is guaranteed fire-fighting payment of \$75 an hour in Pittsford.

The flames worked from the cellar, through the walls and floors to the roof which caved in. Firemen were able to keep the fire from reaching the main building by working on the adjoining side. When the fire was put out about 7 p. m. the annex was nothing but charred lumber and ashes. Nothing was left standing except part of the framework.

There were no guests in the Inn at the time of the fire due to the fact that the place was closed down a week ago for a vacation period. It was to have reopened Thanksgiving Day.

Wenton said he would not estimate damage but that the loss was partly covered by insurance.

Wenton said he planned to continue operations at the Inn but could not tell how long rebuilding would take.

The main building was of Colonial period architecture and was built in 1832 by Thomas H. Palmer who sold it sometime after 1872 after leaving to settle in the West. Since then five other families have owned it.

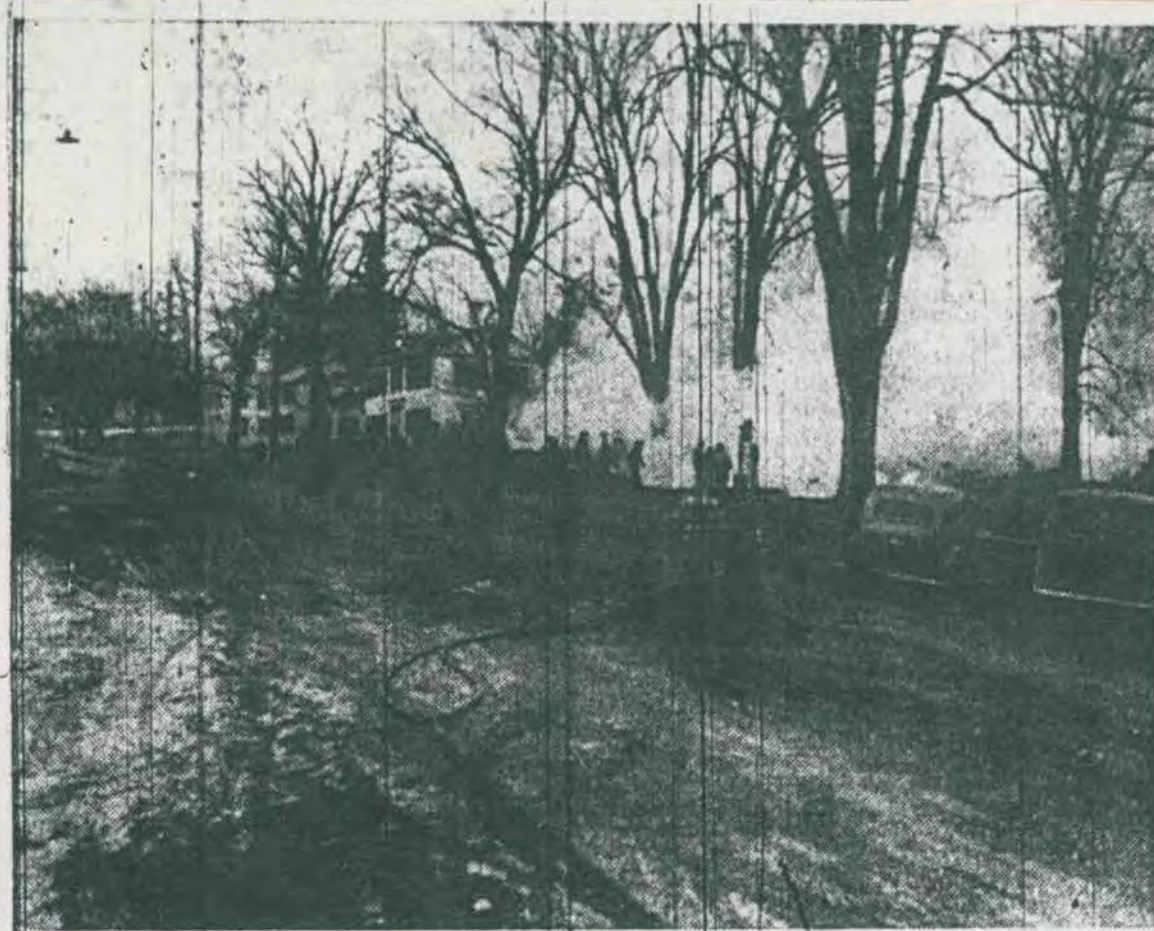
The house is located on the main highway, U. S. Route 7, just south of Pittsford village.



Herald Photo.

Flames roar through the annex of Pittsford inn doing damage estimated at \$10,000 yesterday as Pittsford and Rutland firemen successfully protect the historic inn. A short circuit in the motor of the refrigeration plant in the annex cellar was blamed for the fire.





Herald Photo.

Smoke billows from the ruins of the \$25,000 fire in Benson which yesterday razed the Howard Bartholomew general store and Mrs. Eva Brown's convalescent home. At left is the home of Mrs. Jessie Dotter which was saved by firemen. (Other pictures on Page 6.)

# Fire Destroys General Store, Home in Benson

**Two Invalid Women Saved as Flames Do \$25,000 Damage and Threaten Entire Village for a Time.**

## Help Called

**Rutland, Castleton and Fair Haven Dep'ts Summoned; Icy Traveling Conditions Slow Firemen.**

(Special to The Herald.)

BENSON, Jan. 16.—Two invalid women were removed to safety before dawn today as flames, whipped by a brisk wind, leveled the Bartholomew general store and Brown convalescent home in the heart of this small farm community before they were checked by three fire departments.

The total loss, including the stock in the store owned by Howard Bartholomew, was estimated at \$25,000.

Taken to safety before the roaring flames had leaped from the fire-engulfed business building, owned by C. J. Williamson, to the adjacent convalescent home were Mrs. Emily Easton, 81, of Poultney, and Mrs. Ida Noble, 83, of Benson.

It was Rutland county's second big fire within a week. Whitcomb's Hardware store in Fair Haven burned to the ground on Tuesday at a loss of \$80,000.

Disrupted telephone service and the ice-coated condition of the highway prevented outside help from arriving at Benson in time to save Mrs. Eva Brown's convalescent home, the former Dr. Jones home-stead.

Fire Chief Eugene Crowley of Fair Haven said the treacherous traveling delayed his company of 15 men by more than 20 minutes. The distance is 10 miles.

The Castleton Fire Department with 15 men under Chief Clayton White arrived shortly afterward. As the telephone service to Orwell has been out since the ice storm of some weeks ago the department from that community was notified by Howard Kellogg who drove the seven miles by car.

Also summoned was the Rutland Fire department, under Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, which after its arrival stood by in case the fire got out of control.

Erwin Corey, a mail carrier, was among the first to discover the fire, at 6:30 a. m. He saw smoke and fire pouring from under the roof of the Bartholomew store and immediately notified Bartholomew.

Bartholomew, a World War II veteran who only 18 months ago had rented the store from C. J. Williamson, dashed to the store in his night-clothing and overcoat. He was able only to save the chest containing his accounts.

The fire, he said, appeared to have started on the second floor used for storage. The cause was undetermined.

Meantime the villagers had gathered in large numbers and a bucket brigade was organized. Water was taken from a nearby stream. After their arrival, about 7:15 a.

m., the Fair Haven firemen laid 3000 feet of hose to an artificial body of water on the Glen Munger property from which water was pumped onto the flaming buildings. When it appeared that the Bartholomew and Brown structures were lost, firemen concentrated their efforts in protecting the home of Mrs. Jessie Dotter, who retired to this village from New Jersey about a month ago. The Dotter home, now remodeled, was once owned by Allen Fish. The house was only slightly scorched.

South of the store was the Carl Pratt home which was protected from the flames by the wind which was blowing northward.

Most of the household goods and furnishings in the convalescent home were saved. Much of the furnishings in the Dotter home had also been removed.

The destroyed buildings were both more than a century old. C. J. Williamson purchased the store building in 1919 of Rufus Walker

and conducted a hardware business there until nearly two years ago when he moved his stock to a store on the southeast corner of the village. He leased the vacated place to Bartholomew.

Bartholomew, father of two small girls and a former Benson school teacher, had gone into the general store business shortly after his discharge from military service. He said his loss would amount to \$7000.

The convalescent home was sold to Mrs. Brown by Williamson over a year ago. The 15-room house had been renovated into a colonial type home by the new purchaser. She estimated her loss at nearly \$8000. The Williamson building was valued at \$10,000.

The fire was under control by 8 a. m.

## Two Firemen Injured While Fighting Blaze in Smoke Filled Industrial Plant

One fireman suffered burns on his face and neck from burning tar and another was hit on the nose by a falling board before a troublesome blaze at the Killington Manufacturing company building on Merchants Row was extinguished last night.

Richard Barron received bad burns from hot tar and John Kent suffered cuts on his nose and eye from a falling board while battling the blaze in the smoke-filled building.

Both were treated by Dr. William J. Powers.

According to Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski the blaze started in an overheated transformer.

The call was received at 9:14 p. m. and a general alarm was rung in shortly afterwards.

Approximately 300 people witnessed the battle as firemen invaded the smoke-filled building to locate the fire which Chief Koltonski said was centered in a ceiling in the connecting Boston Market.

With all the department apparatus on hand, Chief Koltonski directed the fight with two lines of hose operating.

All men off duty answered

the alarm to assist in the fight, the chief said.

The difficult blaze mushroomed upward to the second floor before it was halted.

No estimate was available last night on the damage, although Chief Koltonski said most of it—which he described as considerable—resulted from the smoke.

Chief Koltonski said the fire was discovered by employees of the Killington Manufacturing company—makers of gloves—who were working in the building. They called the fire department to report smoke in the upper stories over the Boston Market, he said.

On arrival at the scene he ordered the alarm turned in.

## Gas Explosion Rocks Cronin's Grocery Market

A loud explosion rocked an Elm street grocery store yesterday morning, but swept around the proprietor, leaving him dazed but uninjured.

F. Leroy Cronin, who operates Cronin's Cash Food market at 2 Elm street, said the blast appeared to move up from the floor and over his head.

Cronin, who had just opened the store, was standing in the rear of the building, about a foot away from the pocket of gas when it exploded about 7:30 a. m.

The explosion shoved a refrigerator case forward about six inches, shifted two other food cases around, and blew out three plate glass windows in the front of the store.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, who investigated with Assistant Chief Frank H. Seward, said the blast probably resulted when a pocket of gas accumulated from the refrigerating unit was ignited from a coal stove.

Cronin said the stove was blown into the air, with one leg landing on a can of coffee. About 12 dozen eggs were broken and several bottles smashed in the shake-up of his stock caused by the explosion, he added.

The exploding gas also ripped up a new floor covering and pulled plaster off the wall in several places. The building is owned by Joseph S. Bavis of 51 West street.

## Forest Fire Burns 10 Acres On Pine Hill

About 10 acres of young trees and brush on Pine hill burned over yesterday in two fires which began at 4:08 p. m.

The fires, one north of the old stonecrusher and one south, burned an area of about five acres each.

Four Rutland firemen and two other men extinguished the blaze by 7:48 p. m.

Capt. James J. Rice of the fire department said that many young spruce and Scotch pine trees were burned. The fire spread over a large area but was never out of control as the flames did not reach great heights.

Rice said that he thought children may have started the blaze.



## Fire Damage To Be Fixed

Home Gutted in Christmas Day Blaze to Be Repaired; Loss Runs Into Thousands.

Repairs to the home of Charles H. Brislin at 53 East Center street, extensively damaged in a Christmas Day fire, are planned to start as soon as possible.

The Brislins and their three-year-old daughter, Catherine Ann, are living temporarily with Mrs. Brislin's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones of 25 Jackson avenue.

Damage to the two-story frame house is estimated to run into several thousand dollars.

The fire started in the basement and had gained considerable headway before Mrs. Brislin discovered it and called the fire department at 12:09 p. m.

A general alarm was rung in three minutes later, bringing out four trucks, off-duty and call firemen.

The blaze, starting in the south end of the house, swept up to the attic in several places through the partitions.

Firemen, working rapidly in the smoke-filled house, opened partitions in two rooms on each floor in order to get at the fire.

Four lines, including 1250 feet of hose, were used to fight the blaze.

The release was sounded at 1:42 p. m., although the last truck did not reach the station until 2:09 p. m.

Mrs. Brislin said the family and their guests were preparing to leave for Christmas dinner at a relative's home when the fire was discovered.

Firemen said that careless smoking was the probable cause of the blaze.

A furnace explosion at the Pratico greenhouse at 164 Spruce street Saturday at 6:15 p. m. caused little damage.

The chimney of the furnace was blown off and the doors blown open, but the furnace itself was not damaged, firemen said.

Firemen said the explosion was probably caused by faulty timing.

The department made a quick run to the home of Peter Abatiell at 8 Meadow street Sunday at 4:10 p. m. for a chimney fire. No damage was reported.

An attempt to drive along the road with the hand brake on called the department out to 130 Woodstock avenue at 6:58 p. m. Saturday. The car, owned by Robert L. King of Proctor, was not adre, however.

(Top) Firemen move through dense smoke as they battle the blaze that caused several hundreds of dollars damage at St. Peter's parish garage Saturday night. Two cars owned by the Sisters of St. Joseph were pushed to safety from the blazing building by a group of bystanders.

A lone fireman mounts a ladder toward a smoke-filled opening in the garage during the struggle to bring the blaze under control. Origin of the fire has not been determined.

## Fire Damages Two Garages

Two Cars Destroyed, Two Others Pushed From St. Peter's Parish Building.

Fires of unknown origins caused considerable damage to two garages in Rutland Saturday and resulted in the destruction of two cars.

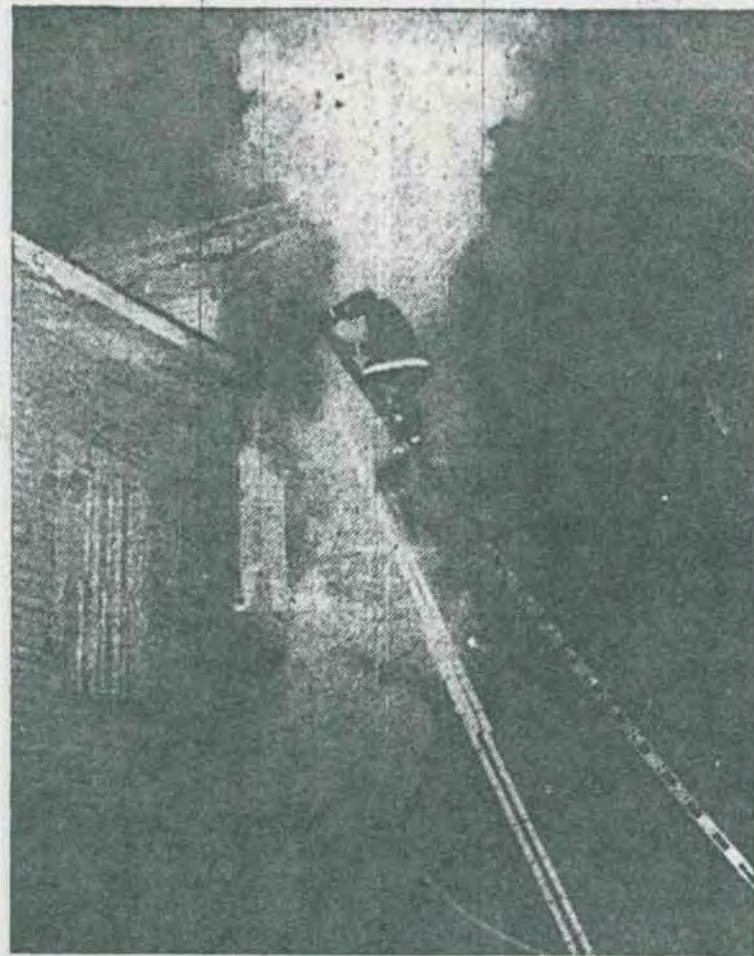
Two vehicles owned by the Sisters of St. Joseph were pushed to safety out of the blazing garage near the St. Peter's rectory Saturday evening by a group of bystanders.

A third car, owned by the Rev. Gerald T. Buckley, luckily escaped destruction because it was not parked in its accustomed space in the part of the garage which burned.

The fire apparently started in the lumber stored in the cellar and flared up rapidly on the south and west outside walls of the building.

Firemen, called at 7:50 p. m. had to contend with considerable smoke before extinguishing the blaze with two lines of hose. The release was sounded at 10:02 p. m.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski estimated damage at several hundred dollars.



In addition to the scorched walls of the building, some water damage was done to church property stored there.

The Rev. Robert F. Joyce, pastor of St. Peter's church, who drove his car out of a nearby garage when he heard the flames crackling, paid tribute at services yesterday to the efforts of the fire and police departments.

Two cars were rendered a total loss in a flaming garage at 146 Woodstock avenue early Saturday morning.

The vehicles were owned by Rolla M. Jasmin of 146 Woodstock avenue and Robert Lloyd of 150 Woodstock avenue.

Firemen, summoned at 1:40 a. m., found the garage enveloped in flames and had no chance to remove the cars.

The fire was discovered almost simultaneously by Mrs. Rolla M. Jasmin and Mrs. Geraldine Lloyd, who telephoned the station, and by a passing motorist, who pulled box 24.

The torrid blaze melted handles off the car doors and left the frame building badly charred on the inside.

Firemen investigated the possibility that the fire had started from one of the two vehicles, but were not able to determine the cause definitely.

The damage, including loss of the two cars, was estimated at more than \$1000.

## Will Examine Fire Causes

Chief Koltonski to Check Blaze That Damaged Empty House Saturday Night.

An investigation of the fire which damaged an unoccupied home at 64 North street late Saturday night will be started today, Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said yesterday.

Chief Koltonski was inclined to blame Halloween pranksters for the North street blaze as well as the three false alarms which the department answered over the weekend.

The fire appeared to have been started on the floor near a window of the converted shed.

The flames were discovered promptly by Ernest J. Lassar of 60 North street, who phoned the fire department at 11:30 p. m.

Damage was confined to the inside of the building, which was scorched.

Three false box alarms turned in during the late hours of Saturday night and early Sunday morning were: Box 33, corner of Curtis avenue and Horton street, at 11:35 p. m.; Box 35, corner of East and East Washington streets, at 12:10 a. m.; and Box 14, corner of Church and Williams street, at 12:20 a. m.

## Quiet, Please!

No fireworks, Please!

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski issued a warning to Rutland youngsters yesterday that fireworks are against the law in Vermont, adding that offenders are liable to prosecution.

Chief Koltonski said during the past week he received reports from local residents that youngsters have been shooting off firecrackers in anticipation of July 4.

## Roof Fire At Patch Wegner Extinguished

Fire on the roof of the Patch-Wegner plant at 56 Howe street yesterday afternoon caused only very minor damage, according to firemen and company officials.

The blaze started from sparks thrown out of the plant smokestack during "pouring off" operations.

Firemen said company employees normally posted to guard against fire during the pouring-off had nearly extinguished the blaze by the time the three pieces of equipment arrived.

The firemen, called at 2:31 p. m., took over the hoses from the company firefighters and finished the job.

G. Keen Chaffee, secretary of the firm, said that minor repairs will be required for the corner of the roof burned.

Firemen also answered a call at 1:38 p. m. to 112 Crescent street, where sparks from an incinerator caused minor damage to a small shed owned by Ernest Bove and a boat and trailer owned by John Piscopo.

## Bad Habits

Smoking is a bad habit if you're only 10 years old, and throwing lighted cigarettes in trash piles is a bad habit at any age, three unidentified youngsters learned yesterday.

Firemen were called at 3:09 p. m. to extinguish a fire in a trash bin in the alley behind the Economy store, between Merchants Row and Evelyn street. Neighbors reported that three boys "just about big enough to hold the cigarettes" had been observed smoking on a platform above the trash bin shortly before the blaze broke out.

The fire caused only slight damage to two window frames in the rear of the store building.





Herald Photo — Merusi.

**EXPIRED? NOT QUITE!** Fireman Eddy Earle (right), made dizzy by inhaling too much smoke while fighting the fire in Lynne's shop on Merchants Row last night stumbled from the store and leaned against a parking meter as he gulped fresh air into his lungs. The meter "expired" flag was up but Earle was only out of action for a few moments. At left is Fireman Francis Walsh.

## Fire Damages RR Building

**Smoky Blaze Threatening Other Buildings Extinguished After Hour Battle.**

A smoky, smouldering fire in a coal storage shed in the Rutland railroad yards—which posed a definite threat to the adjoining blacksmith shop and other nearby buildings—was extinguished with small damage yesterday.

Fire-fighting crews of the central fire station and railroad had the fire out at 3:50 p. m. after an hour's struggle with the inaccessible blaze.

The loss will not exceed \$500, Allan T. Danver, chief engineer, said after an inspection of the charred building. Chief damage resulted to the roof.

The ancient structure, formerly part of the machine shops but now used chiefly for storage, will probably not be entirely restored, railroad officials stated. The loss is covered by insurance.

The fire was believed to have started from a spark from a torch used in cutting scrap steel in a car on the siding next to the building.

The blaze spread rapidly in the dry wood under the tin roof, producing clouds of smoke which quickly filled the shed and drifted into the adjoining shop.

The operator of the torch, Rodney St. John, who had left the job for a few minutes, noticed smoke coming from under the eaves and began laying line from one of the railroad's hydrants.

Box 55 was turned in at 2:45 p. m. by Gordon Cutler, one of the shop foremen, who also noticed smoke.

## Store Hit By \$7000 Blaze

**Hundreds View Early Evening Fire at Lynne's Shop on Merchants Row.**

Fire originating in the rear stockroom of Lynne's women's apparel shop at 41 Merchants Row caused an estimated \$7000 damage early last night.

Firemen, battling the blaze through dense clouds of black smoke in near-zero temperatures, confined the flames to the stockroom, but smoke spread through the entire building and into adjoining buildings on each side.

Called at 8:38 p. m., firemen fought the blaze for more than an hour with four pieces of equipment.

Call and off-duty firemen were called to the scene by the general alarm and off-duty policemen were called out to assist in handling traffic and keeping back the hundreds of spectators who were attracted to the smoking store.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said that the cause of the blaze had not been determined. The investigation will be continued today, he said.

The fire was discovered by Mrs. Florence Tyler, manager of the Hollywood Beauty Shop at 43 Merchants Row, and her customer, Mrs. Marie W. Lundell, manager of the Millinery Manufacturing company, located on the north side of Lynne's.

Mrs. Tyler and Mrs. Lundell smelled smoke about 8:15 p. m., but at first thought it came from the adjacent barber shop.

Louis Kraft of Boston, owner of the store, and other employees had left only a half an hour before the blaze was discovered after unpacking stock.

Kraft said he could not give an immediate estimate of his loss and did not know whether it is covered by insurance. The store may be able to re-open today, he said.

Walls of the stockroom were badly charred, and water and smoke damage in the store was extensive. All windows in the two-story building were knocked out by firemen in order to clear it of smoke.

Smoke damage was also reported in the Jannetti tailor shop and Walbridge insurance office, both located upstairs in the building.

## Fishman Store Fire Proves To Be All Smoke

Two fire engines answered a call at Fishman's store on Merchants Row at 9:02 a. m. yesterday to find that a smoke-filled basement had been caused by paper burned in a hot water heater.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said the basement filled with smoke because of heavy air pressure. Employees thought a serious fire had broken out.

The firemen also answered a call to North Grove street property owned by Henry W. Clement near the Rutland Country club. A small grass fire had already been extinguished when they arrived. The call came at 1:49 p. m.

## Fire Interrupts Eating Schedule At Apartment

Eight families had their meals interrupted yesterday when a small cellar fire threatened the large apartment building at 47 Grant avenue yesterday.

Given most cause for alarm was Fireman Charles E. McGinnis, who lives in the building with his family and who was on duty at the fire station at 6:05 p. m., the time of the alarm.

A small amount of smoke damage was caused to a few of the apartments in the building, owned by Norman Bartlett of 133 Grove street.

The fire started when the furnace became disconnected and the heat from the open smoke pipe ignited the floor joist in the cellar.

Engines 1 and 3 which answered the alarm were back within 20 minutes.

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## Motor Fire At Laundry Proves Stubborn Blaze

Fire in a motor at the plant of Foley's Launderers and Cleaners, 33 Merchants Row, was quenched by the fire department yesterday afternoon after considerable difficulty.

Firemen used carbon dioxide to extinguish the worst of the blaze when they were called at 4:57 p. m., but the fire persisted in the lint-filled interior of the motor.

A mechanic employed by Foley's, Erwin E. West of 77 Stratton road, injured a finger while dismantling the motor to enable the firemen to get at the blaze.

The fire, caused by overheating or a static spark, was confined to the motor, firemen said.

## Home Damaged By Fire Started By Blow Torch

About \$300 fire and water damage was done to the George Guyette home at 130 Robbins street yesterday when fire from a blow torch, being used to remove paint, ate into partitions and mushroomed into the attic.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said paint was being removed from the outside of the house. The fire was discovered after the work had been stopped.

Mrs. Guyette was at home at the time. The alarm was received at 12:41 p. m.

Two trucks answered the call, returning to the station at 1:25 p. m.

The house is owned by the Foley Laundry company.



# Tar Barrel Explosion Decapitates Rutland Boy; 4 Others Escape

12-Year-Old Robert Lynch  
Instantly Killed as Fumes  
Are Ignited in Nearly-  
Empty 55-Gallon Drum.

## Brother Hurt

Francis Lynch, 14, Burned  
by Hot Tar Spattered by  
Blast, Saved by One of  
His Companions.

A twelve-year-old Rutland youth was decapitated and four other boys escaped serious harm in a weird barrel explosion near the School street playground Saturday in the worst of the Labor Day week-end accidents.

The dead youth—Robert Lynch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Lynch of 52 Cherry street—was killed instantly when a 55-gallon tar drum suddenly blew sky high while he and four others sat around it reading comic books.

His 14-year-old brother, Francis, engulfed in flames created by the spattered hot tar, was saved from possible death when a third youth knocked him to the ground to smother the fire.

Robert was sitting with his back to the drum smoking a cigarette when the explosion occurred shortly before noon, according to the story the other youths told local police.

Killed instantly by the blast, his body was flung 10 feet by the impact. His skull and other parts of the head were hurled 70 feet beyond the body.

The burning Francis, frantic with fear, dashed out toward the playground with Robert Romano, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Romano of 15 Forest street, in hot pursuit.

Reaching him, Romano knocked the panicky Francis to the ground, ripped his shirt off his back and rolled him in the sand in an effort to smother the flames.

Francis was taken home and treated for back burns caused from the hot asphalt which rained on his body after the blast.

The three other youths—Vincent Bernardo, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Bernardo of 85 Forest street, Keith Lafaso, 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas J. Lafaso of 57 Forest street, and Romano—were splashed with tar but escaped uninjured.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltowski said the explosion was caused from a spark which ignited vapors in the drum which contained less than three gallons of asphalt.



THEIR LUCK HELD OUT: Robert Romano, 14, and Vincent Bernardo, 15, as they looked after being splattered with tar on Saturday in the tragedy which took the life of a companion, Robert Lynch, 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Lynch of Cherry street, when a 55-gallon drum containing tar exploded. (Photo by State Trooper Kenneth Fletcher.)

MONDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 7, 1949.

## Eight Seek New Home

Lynceus Todriff Family With  
Relatives After Flames De-  
stroy Their Home.

A family of eight persons, including a year-old baby, who fled to safety early Saturday morning when their two-story home on the Cold River road was destroyed by fire, looked for a new home yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynceus L. Todriff and their six children were left practically without clothing or household furnishings by the unimpeded blaze.

Rutland firemen, called at 2:38 a. m., were helpless to halt the flames, although they remained on duty until 5 a. m. to see that the fire did not spread beyond the house.

No water is available at the house, and the flames had made rapid headway by the time firemen arrived.

The blaze started in an adjoining shed from an unknown cause.

Mrs. Todriff and five of the children found temporary shelter at the home of her mother, Mrs. Susan Doumouchel of Healdville.

Todriff, a painter, was staying with his father, Solomon, at 108 Wales street.

The oldest daughter, Blanche, 13, resides at the home of James A. Allen of 205 Mussey street, but was at her parents' home when the fire broke out.

Mrs. Todriff was awakened by the sound of flames crackling in the shed.

Tossing the two buckets of water handy on the doors, Todriff brought the children out safely from the second floor of the house.

One of the girls was sent to the home of a neighbor to call the fire department.

A bed and a radio were virtually the only articles salvaged from the burning five-room frame building. A nearby barn was not threatened by the blaze.

The house is owned by the estate of Col. H. Edward Dyer.

The children with their mother in Healdville are Shirley, 12; Patricia, 9; Cary, 6; Rebecca, 3; and Lynceus, jr., 1.

The vapors were ignited by the sun which had beaten down on the drum all morning. The fumes were generated from a liquid such as naphtha or gasoline used as a thinner for the asphalt.

A six-inch crack along the top edge of the barrel allowed the fumes to escape and contact some spark, probably from the cigarette, the fire chief said.

Reconstructing the tragedy, Police Chief J. Fred Carbine said the four playmates were seated near a woodpile and drum owned by Joseph Cioffi of 72 School street, whose home is on one side of the public playground.

A match thrown into the drum or a spark from the cigarette ignited the fumes and exploded the drum.

The barrel shot up in the air to a height of about 300 feet and came spinning down, landing about 200 feet away on the street.



ROBERT LYNCH.

The falling drum nearly hit Albert Surrell, Jr., 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Surrell of 61 School street, who stopped his bicycle when he heard the detonation, saw the spinning barrel in the air and made a dash for safety.

The blast was so great that it was heard a quarter of a mile distant and cracked the marble cap on the chimney of Cioffi's home. Cioffi and others seated in the home were shaken by the noise.

Following the explosion, Cioffi ran out of the house, gave the alarm and succeeded in smothering the fire which set the 15-foot woodpile ablaze. When the fire trucks arrived the fire was only smoldering.

Chief Carbine said he would send a sample of the asphalt to a laboratory for analysis. From this, the type of volatile fumes may be determined.

Carbine also said the four surviving lads would be questioned further in an attempt to clarify the mysterious explosion.

Dr. Charles D. Beale, city health officer, gave permission to remove the body.

The asphalt was recently used by Cioffi to tar his garage driveway.

Another youth escaping possible death in the explosion was Dominick Dazzi, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Dazzi of 74 School street, who was sitting on top of the drum only a minute before the explosion.

A collection for the dead boy's father, who is a letter carrier, is being organized by Dr. William Gould of Elm street, whose home is located on Lynch's route.

The route includes Elm, Chestnut, Church, Cottage, Williams and Grove streets and Kendall avenue.

Robert Thomas Lynch was born on August 22, 1936, and was a seventh grade student at St. Peter's school. He was a member of Boy Scout Troop 6.

He is survived by three brothers, Francis, Thomas and Joseph; three sisters, Phoebe M., Margaret E. and Rosaline C.; a grandfather, Joseph Doner; and his parents.

The body was taken to the McDonald Funeral home, where it will remain until today at 2 a. m. when funeral services will be held at St. Peter's church. Burial will be in Calvary cemetery.



# Hotel Fire Loss Held Under \$2500

Threatening Blaze in Berwick and Singer Store Controlled in 25 Minutes.

## Department Praised

Fast work by the Rutland Fire department which brought praise from State Fire Marshall Chester M. Kirby, who was here on what had been planned as a routine inspection trip, held to less than \$2500 the total estimated damage from a fire which threatened the west wing of the Hotel Berwick yesterday morning.

First reported shortly before 10 a. m. by employees of the Singer Sewing Machine company, whose sales and service shop is on the west end of the street floor, and almost simultaneously by hotel employees, the blaze mushroomed under the second floor and through partitions, causing volumes of dense smoke through which the few hotel guests still in their rooms all made their way safely to the stairs or elevator.

Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, arriving with the first apparatus, immediately ordered the whistle alarm sounded from box 45 at Center and Wales streets, summoning all off-duty and extra men.

Tearing up flooring in a second-floor passageway and ripping open partitions in two rooms on the second floor at the west end of the building, as well as in the corresponding third floor rooms, firemen used four lines of inch and a half hose and two booster lines in bringing the fire under control within 25 minutes of their arrival.

They remained for nearly another hour, checking up on all possible remaining danger spots. The "all out" whistle was sounded at 11:30 a. m., an hour and 38 minutes after the alarm had been turned in.

Hotel employees not only notified every known tenant by telephone as soon as the first warning had

been given the office and switchboard in the lobby, but every room in the hotel was checked in person. All guests were able to descend safely to street level, either by the stairway or elevator. Manager Richard W. Henderson reported in praising the prompt work of his staff.

After the fire was out and he had had time to inspect the damage, Henderson agreed with an earlier estimate of loss made by Chief Koltonski, naming \$1500 as the probable amount.

In the meantime, Singer employees, after giving the alarm, worked to move stock and equipment away from the danger area. With the aid of salvage covers brought by firemen, water and smoke damage was held to a minimum. C. E. Orsatti, store manager, stated last night, placing his company's share of the loss at "between \$500 and \$1000"—and bringing the total estimated damage from the blaze and its aftermath to \$2500 or less.

Except for smoke and considerable water which dripped in, little or no damage was done in the Berwick House Barber shop, next door to the Singer establishment, and several customers were being attended in the chairs more than half an hour before the firemen had finished picking up their equipment.

Actual damage was confined to a relatively small part of the structure and, after the initial excitement, the hotel, its employees and guests returned to an almost normal routine. So far as could be learned last night, no personal effects of any guests were damaged.

## Loss Small



Ken Miner Photo.

Center street was blocked by the Rutland Fire departments entire supply of equipment—except for Engine 3, laid up since an accident last week—as firemen worked fast yesterday morning to bring under control a blaze which at first threatened the entire west wing of the Hotel Berwick.



Herald Photos.

ABOVE: Firemen stick their heads out through broken windows for fresh air after checking through the second floor rooms over Segale's restaurant in yesterday's early morning fire.

Kirby and Chief Koltonski spent much of the afternoon checking the cause of the blaze, but announced later that they had not, as yet, been able to determine its origin.

Kirby, who came here to make a series of "routine" inspections yesterday, called the local department's work in quelling the blaze "One of the best 'stops' I ever saw." Chief Koltonski himself admitted that when he first saw the large volume of smoke and the location and size of the blaze between the first floor ceiling and second floor, he thought the entire wing might be destroyed and that "we would be lucky to save any of the hotel, especially considering the high wind and severe cold."

## Fire Damage Put at \$5000

Grease Dripping on Stove Believed Cause of Blaze in Segale's Restaurant.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski declared yesterday that the fire which started early yesterday morning in Segale's cafe at 31 Center street and damaged three adjoining establishments, was caused by grease from a frying basket dripping down on a burner that had been left on after the restaurant closed.

Damage, most of it at Segale's, was estimated at \$5000.

According to Chief Koltonski the blaze, for which the first alarm came at 2:26 a. m., spread up an open stairway and traveled along the ceiling, damaging three establishments to the east. Smoke and water loss was suffered in the rear of Cereghino's restaurant, in the Girl Scout rooms above Cereghino's, and in the storage room of H. E. Ingalls above the Hartford bookstore.

Inspectors who surveyed the restaurant yesterday morning said they found a gas jet still open under what had been a basket for cooking French fried potatoes. They speculated that grease from the basket had dripped down on the flames some time after the restaurant closed at 11:30 Thursday evening and sparked the conflagration.

Damage at Cereghino's was not extensive. The restaurant opened for business yesterday morning.

Flames damaged the kitchen and seared paint and fixtures in the front of Segale's.

Chief Koltonski said the restaurant was checked by inspectors the day before the fire. Only one tag was placed there, he said, and it was due to faulty wiring in the basement rather than to any deficiencies in the kitchen where the fire started.

No damage was reported at J. C. Penney's, next store to the west of Segale's. It was reported in yesterday's Herald that smoke had entered the store. A fire wall separates the store from the Segale building.

The fire was kept inside at all times by the Rutland Fire department, which battled the fire for two hours and 11 minutes, with four lines, two from Center street and two leading from Willow street to the rear of the building.

Both on-duty and call firemen answered the alarm, believed first given by John Schollar of 119 State street. Herald mail room employee, who saw the fire while driving to work along Center street. Donald T. Hubbard of 109 North Main street, another Herald room employee, saw flames from the rear of the building while driving along Willow street. Hubbard told Robert J. O'Shea of 51 West street, also employed in The Herald mail room, who called an operator and was told that the alarm had already been sounded.



# Fire 'Sweeps Segale's Cafe

Extent of Damage, Unknown  
But Smoke and Water Loss  
Thought Severe.

Rutland firemen had a fire at Segale's restaurant under control at 3 o'clock this morning.

Origin of the fire and extent of the damage was not determined. While no flames were visible from Center street, a raging blaze in the kitchen could be seen from the rear of the building.

On-duty firemen had gained entrance to the smoke-filled first floor and were breaking into the upper story when call firemen summoned by the fire whistle arrived at the scene.

With the north side of Center street threatened by the blaze, all of the department's equipment was brought to the fire.

As the smoke began to die down shortly after 3 a.m., it was obvious that the entire inside of the building was damaged, by fire, heat or smoke.

Heavy black smoke from the restaurant fire poured into the J. C. Penney store on the west and into Cereghino's restaurant and the Hartford bookshop to the east.



3-49



RIGHT: Joseph A. Segale steps from his restaurant after inspecting the damage, shortly after the blaze was subdued.







# SCRAP BOOK

RUTLAND FIRE  
DEPARTMENT

1950 - 1968



## Entire Apple Crop Lost In Mendon Fire

3500 Bushels Destroyed as Storage, Packing House Is Razed.

Owned by Dr. Thomas

Overheated Stove Believed to Have Caused Blaze; Damage Set at \$15,000.

A season's crop of apples, roughly 3500 bushels, was consumed by a fire which destroyed an apple storage and packing house at the Mendon Mountain Orchards in Mendon yesterday morning.

Owned by Dr. John M. Thomas, the razed packing house and the recently-picked crop of McIntosh, Northern Spy and Delicious apples were partially insured for the loss estimated at about \$15,000.

Rutland fire department officials said the blaze probably was caused by an overheated stove in the packing room of the building's main floor. A wood fire had been started in the furnace about 8 a. m. and may have been left unattended, firemen said.

Destroyed by the fire were a cold storage refrigeration unit and two three-and-one-half horsepower electric motors which supplied the power; a farm tractor of the crawler type, miscellaneous tools and cultivating equipment, and numerous empty apple boxes and paper liners.

One firetruck from the Rutland department answered an alarm at 9:29 a. m. but found the fire almost completely out of control when it arrived at the scene.

The plant is located off US Route 4, about two miles East of the Rutland town line.

Lack of a good water supply in the immediate area hampered firemen, who started to use a small supply from the engine's booster tank but stopped when the water had little effect on the billowing flames.

Aided by a strong wind from the north, the blaze leveled the building in less than an hour. Smoke still rose from the smoldering ruins late into the evening.

Cardboard carton liners and paper "cushions" used for packing the apples were instrumental in spreading the fire throughout the building, firemen stated.

Dr. Thomas said he has a few thousand boxes of apples stored in New York city. Most of the apples consumed in the fire were intended for sale through Rutland stores, while a smaller number were to be sold at the orchard's main plant.

"The fire may have put us out of business temporarily, but we hope to rebuild in readiness for another crop next year," Dr. Thomas stated.

The blaze was apparently discovered by a passing motorist who stopped at a nearby gasoline station and informed an attendant. The latter then called Dr. Thomas' home and the fire department was summoned.

A former barn, the storage and packing house was constructed of old timber. The lower or basement part of the building, once a stable, was used as a storage room and equipped with a complete refrigeration unit. The main floor, where the fire is believed to have originated, was used primarily for packing and was filled with about 400 empty apple boxes, a grading table, and paper goods used in packing the apples. The furnace used to heat the upper part of the structure was located at the west end of the room.

Ray Hulburt, orchard manager, said no one was in the building when the fire broke out. He said the orchard employees began filling the building about six weeks ago had just about finished the job.

## Fire Destroys House, Barn

Sailor Overcome Hauling Family Items From Burke Home Near Castleton.

Smoke was still rising yesterday from the ruins of the brick house and barn of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Burke east of Castleton on Route 4 which burned late Saturday night with an almost total loss of contents.

One man was overcome by smoke.

Cause of the fire was not determined. Passers-by who noticed flames on the roof of the barn entered the house to rouse the sleeping Burkes.

When the Castleton fire department arrived the barn and attached sheds were enveloped in flames. Firemen were frustrated in their attempts to save the house by the failure of their fire pump to operate. A wooden section at the rear of the house caught fire from the barn, and shortly the whole house was on fire.

Rutland firemen, called about an hour after the fire was first noticed, did not arrive until the house was almost gutted.

A few objects, such as chairs, a table and a refrigerator were carried out of the house. Everything else, including clothing and personal effects, was destroyed. The barn and sheds contained farm tools and small equipment, all of which was lost.

Dominic Dazzi, Diana Loyzelle, Doreen Ballantine, all of Rutland, and Robert Peterson of Boston, passing by in their car when they saw the fire, gave the alarm. Another early arrival was a Williams-town, Mass., sailor, Philip Keyworth, who in the process of carrying out valuables was overcome by smoke. He was taken to Rutland hospital for the night. The only casualty reported from the fire, he was released in good condition yesterday.

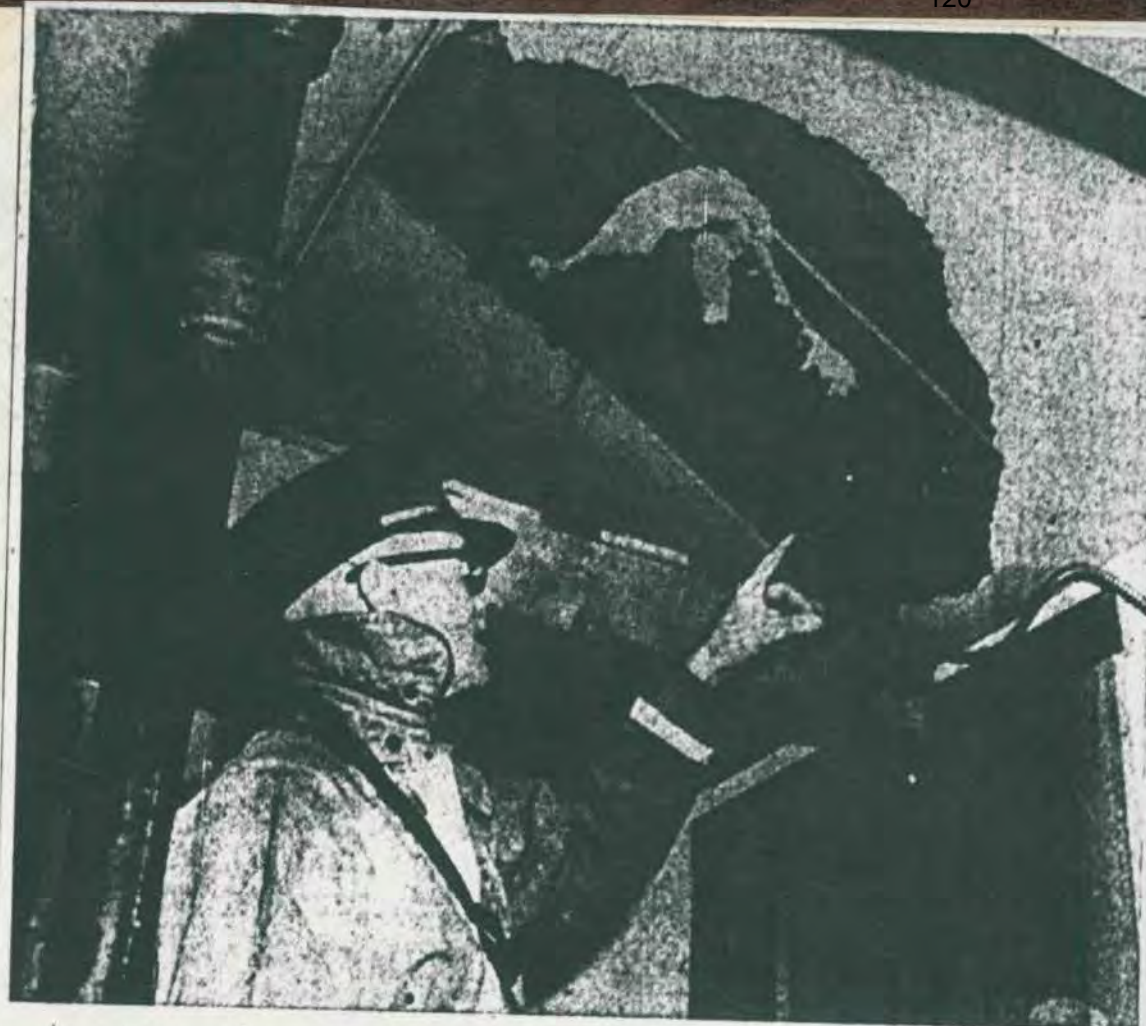
Light from the fire glowed in the sky for miles around. Three state police officers were called to handle the traffic which piled up for almost two miles on either side of the scene.

Not much insurance covered either the buildings or their contents, it was reported.

Heavy equipment such as a tractor and accessories remained safe in another barn across the road.

Engine number 4 of the Rutland fire department was sent to the fire. Its pump was used to replace the defective one so that water could be sent through the Castleton hoses. By the time this was accomplished, however, there was nothing left to do but wet down surrounding grass and trees.

The Burkes removed to the nearby house of their son, William Burke. No estimate of damage was available.



Assistant Fire Chief Ralph Beane of the Rutland Fire department examines a hole torn in attic of the Dr. Stewart Ross home yesterday by a bolt of lightning which struck with deafening force during a freak rainstorm.

## Bolt Strikes Home in City

Litchfield Avenue House of Dr. Stewart Ross Damaged During Freak Storm.

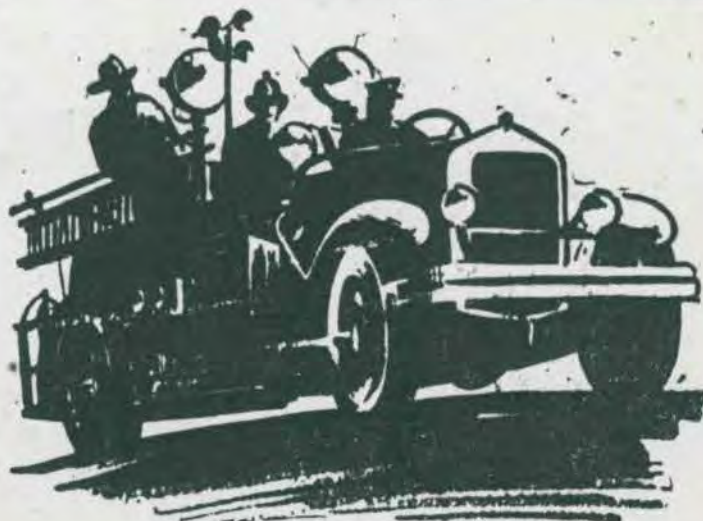
A bolt of lightning during yesterday's freak rainstorm ripped into an unoccupied house owned by Dr. Stewart Ross on Litchfield avenue, tearing a window casement and scorching a few clapboards.

No fire started from the stroke, firemen said.

Neighbors startled by the loud noise about 1:50 p. m. said they saw smoke pouring from attic windows, evidently from the flash itself.

The bolt struck a tree near the house, firemen said, and travelled in on an aerial wire.

Clapboards where the wire lay against the house were scorched and torn. Parts of a window shutter were thrown clear into the street.



CLANG! CLANG!

Every time the engines go clanging through the streets, it should be a warning to you ... a warning that

- U. S. Savings Bonds
- Valuable papers
- Jewelry
- Keepsakes

... should be kept beyond the reach of fire.

You can buy safety ... a box in our vault. The cost is only \$3.00 a year, plus Federal Tax.

**RUTLAND SAVINGS BANK**

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.



RUTLAND DAILY HERALD, MONDAY MORNING, MAY 15, 1950.



Herald Photo—Merusi.

Flames roaring unchecked engulf the Paul Jacobs' Mountain View main cabin in Mendon shortly after midnight yesterday. Rutland firemen had to abandon fighting the fire when water in the booster tank was exhausted. Replenished supplies of water were used to protect the smaller cabins.

## Tourist Home Is Destroyed

Main Building of Mendon  
Mt. Establishment Wrecked  
in Early Morning Blaze.

A fire of unknown origin destroyed the nine-room main house of the Mountain View Cabins tourist camp on Mendon mountain early yesterday morning.

A neighbors' "bucket brigade" was credited with saving the four other buildings at the camp. Residents and passersby, attracted by the brilliant flames, carried cans, buckets and bottles of water to supply the portable tank that was the firemen's only source of water in fighting the blaze.

Rutland firemen answered the alarm at 1 a. m. to find the frame house a mass of flames. Three cabins and a garage escaped with a scorching, though all water for the hoses had to be carried to the booster tank from scattered wells in the vicinity.

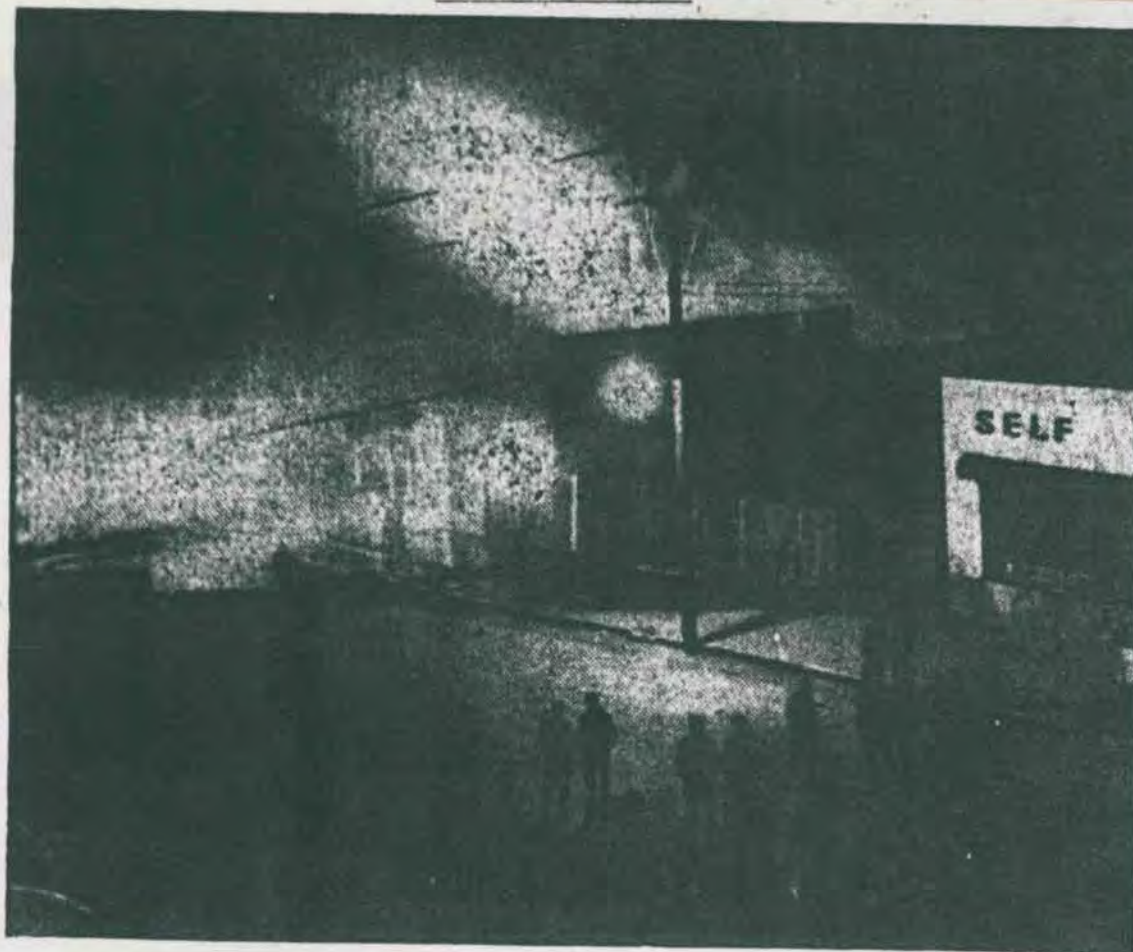
The last engine returned to the station at 2:25 a. m. after a final check of the camp area.

The house was occupied by Paul Jacobs, West Rutland, owner of the camp, and a housekeeper. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltowski reported that Jacobs made several dashes into the burning building to rescue possessions. He succeeded in saving a pocketbook containing some \$200 that had been hidden under a mattress.

Jacobs told the fire chief he believed the fire started somewhere on the second floor.

The cabins are located on route 4, high up on the mountain. Spectators who formed the "bucket brigade" flocked to the scene from points several miles away.





Scene from the Brandon fire which last night gutted three adjoining business buildings on the east side of Center street. Damage was estimated at \$100,000. Three establishments, the Conger News and Gift Shop, the White restaurant and the state liquor store were burned out. The buildings were owned by Joseph Pellerin of Rutland. (Other photo on Page 3.)

Herald Photo—Merust.

JANUARY 19, 1950.

## Curious Tot Learns What Fire Is Like

A little four-year-old girl who "wanted to see what fire looked like" found out yesterday.

Mrs. Philip Garofano of 54 Union street, who burned both hands as she attempted to beat out a fire in the rear room of her home, said last night her daughter, Janie, "somehow got hold of some matches."

Janie gave her mother the above excuse for the ensuing excitement.

The fire started about 9 a. m. and Mrs. Garofano tried to beat out the fire, notify the fire department and keep her two-month-old son, Philip, jr., 22-month-old daughter, Amelia, and Janie, away from the flames.

The fire department, called by a telephone operator after being notified by Mrs. Garofano, arrived with engines one and three to extinguish the fire.

Damage was confined to the walls of the room and some laundry and clothes used by Mrs. Garofano in her attempt to smother the flames.

## \$100,000 Fire Guts 3 Brandon Buildings

Blocks Housing State Liquor Store, White Restaurant, Conger News and Gift Shop Destroyed Before Brandon, Rutland Firemen Control Flames.

### One Family Forced to Flee

BRANDON, April 19.—A stubborn blaze that defied the efforts of two fire departments for two hours gutted the adjoining Pellerin business blocks on the east side of Center street here tonight, doing damage estimated at \$100,000.

It was the third big fire in the business district here within 12 years.

Destroyed tonight were the two-brick block containing the Conger News and Gift shop, and two one-story wooden buildings occupied by the White restaurant and the state liquor store. The Gray family living over the news shop was forced to flee from their apartment.

The property is owned by Joseph Pellerin of Rutland.

The entire stock of the liquor store, estimated at \$20,000, was lost.

Battling the blaze which burned briskly for nearly two hours before showing signs of being subdued were the Brandon and Rutland departments. The Middlebury department, which had been called, was at Whiting fighting a barn fire.

The fire was discovered at 8:15 p. m. by Mrs. Patricia Snow of Rutland, a waitress in the White restaurant, the center building. The origin was not determined.

## Oil Burner Explosion Does Small Damage

Smoke damage was the only result of an oil burner explosion in the cellar at the home of Lawrence W. Mayo of 47 Pine street yesterday at 7:12 p. m.

Smoke poured through the downstairs apartment and worked its way up into the back part of the second story tenement.

Engines 1 and 3 of the Rutland Fire department responded to the call, but according to Mrs. Mayo, her husband had smothered the flames with sand before their arrival. The sand in the basement was there from construction work being done on the house.

There was no estimate on the amount of smoke damage done.

She smelled smoke coming from the basement and upon investigation saw flames. Unable to make a telephone connection from the restaurant, she ran to the Conger shop where she telephoned in an alarm.

The flames had gotten well underway before the Brandon Fire department, under Chief Ray Leonard, responded with two trucks.

When it became evident that the flames were getting beyond control, the Rutland department was summoned. One truck with a crew of men responded.

The Rutland truck was driven behind Brandon inn on Park street and pumped water on to the rear of the flaming building from the Neshobe river.

Dense smoke filled the street until about 9 p. m. when flames began to shoot through the roof. Firemen, with kerchiefs over the lower part of their faces, entered the buildings again and again with streaming hoses in an effort to check the blaze as quickly as possible.

North of the burning buildings are the Wagon Wheel restaurant and the June Hardware store. Much of the furnishings in these two establishments was removed.

A quantity of ammunition was taken from the hardware store, across the street to the town clerk's office. Matthew and Frank LaDuke operate the Wagon Wheel restaurant, and Carroll June and his son, Milton, the hardware company.

South of the Pellerin buildings is a vacant lot being readied for the erection of a business block and an A&P self-service market.

The News shop is owned by Ralph Conger. Howard Hodgson and James Mazzarello of Rutland operate the White restaurant. Manager of the liquor store is Elmer Pfennig, who, with Frank Miller, was among the first persons to arrive on the scene after the alarm was sounded.

Traffic approaching Brandon from the south and north was directed away from the fire area by local police, assisted by state troopers.

Hundreds of persons filled the wide street watching the fire and the efforts of the fire fighters. The blaze was not put under control until shortly after 11 p. m.

Several years ago the Brandon postoffice building, just south of the Pellerin blocks, was destroyed by fire. Twelve years ago the Hill block, across the street, was leveled. Both were night fires.

FEBRUARY 19, 1950

## Fire Damages Home Here

Firemen Break Into Walls and Partitions to Get at Early Evening Blaze.

Several hundred dollars damage was done by fire last night to the three-story house at 123 Robbins street owned by Norbert F. Santwire.

Rutland firemen, called to the scene at 6:05 p. m., said the alarm was telephoned in time to prevent extensive damage by the blaze, which mushroomed up from the second floor ceiling nearly to the roof of the structure.

Cause of the fire was not determined.

The blaze started in a partition between the second and third floors. Firemen, who used two booster lines to extinguish the fire, had to break into the walls and ceiling of the second floor to get at the flames.

There was some water damage on the second floor and slight damage to the third floor apartment, firemen said.

Santwire occupied the second floor, with J. J. Sheehan listed as the third floor resident. The first floor apartment, occupied by Harry E. Underhill, was undamaged.



MARCH 3, 1950.

## Unoccupied House Burns

Short Circuit Causes \$500 Blaze in Building on the Stratton Road.

A short circuit in an unfinished, unoccupied house at 7 Stratton road owned by Herman Smith of 2 Stratton road caused an estimated \$500 fire damage early yesterday morning.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said the fire, which started in the cellar stairway, was caused by a defective baseboard plug. Smith, who was out of town at the time of the fire told the fire chief he had been using the plug a few days ago. Chief Koltonski stated the wires apparently short circuited and kept heating until hot enough to burst into flames.

The blaze spread from the stairway through a partition between the living room and stairway and through the ceiling.

Besides fire damage to the living room, ceiling, attic and floors, smoke blackened the entire interior of the house. Chief Koltonski said the fire smoldered for a "considerable time" before it was discovered.

A passing milkman, Herbert Thompson of 14 Wallace avenue, spotted the smoke-filled house and notified neighbors who summoned the fire department.

Firemen extinguished the blaze in about an hour. Engines 2 and 3 were out at 6 a. m. and back in the station at 7:06 a. m.

A chimney fire was extinguished at an apartment house at 238 South Main street about 11 a. m. yesterday. No damage resulted from the fire and engines 1 and 3 were back at 11:35 a. m.

Firemen were called about 6:15 p. m. to the home of Mrs. John D. Delpha of 24 Jefferson street to turn the water off in a leaking hot water tank.

Engines 2 and 3 were back in the station at 5:40 a. m.

No damage was caused by a chimney fire at 8:30 p. m. yesterday at the home of L. A. Branchaud of 135 Pearl street. Engine 3 was back at the station at 8:57 p. m.

## Wood Fire?

A variation of the "man-bites-dog theme" occurred at 11:03 a. m. Saturday when Capt. Percy E. Wood of the fire department discovered a blaze in the chimney of his home at 11½ Lincoln avenue.

Capt. Wood called the fire house and requested a service car and extension ladder so that he might attend to the flaming flue himself. The department, anxious to assist a comrade in distress, dispatched an engine and crew to the scene.

The blaze was extinguished in a few minutes.

Firemen put out a grass fire which slightly scorched the corner of a barn at 16 Woodstock avenue at 11:24 a. m. Saturday.

Another grass fire at 47 Terrill street was extinguished at 10:37 a. m. yesterday.

## 80 Firemen To Drill Here

Koltonski Announces State Fire School Will Be Held June 25 in Rutland.

About 80 firemen from all over Vermont are expected to be at the State Firemen's school in Rutland June 25. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said yesterday.

The school will be jointly sponsored by the Vermont State Firemen's association and the Fire Chiefs club of Vermont.

Chief Koltonski said that the program would be announced later.

A meeting of the association will be held in Vergennes Sunday at 1 p. m. to arrange a program for a State Firemen's convention at Newport in August.

At the present time the Rutland Fire department is searching for a suitable place at which to build an oil fire for the local firemen to extinguish as part of the training school which has been in progress here for the past week.

The school which is to last until September, will cover all phases of firefighting. Its purpose is to keep the firemen in practice and to drill them on new phases of fire fighting.

The school is being run on a three-day week basis at the present time. The chief said yesterday that he hopes to be able to run the school every Monday, Wednesday and Friday throughout the summer.

Last week the department went over the correct use of tools and appliances, their location on the moving equipment and their care after use. Two nights were devoted to ladder practice and one night to ladder and pump drill.

During the ladder practice the men practiced climbing, putting the ladders up and rescue carry.

Some of the drills to date involved teaching the men to handle the tiller on the long ladder truck. On this particular phase a man co-ordinates with the truck driver so that the truck can make the shortest possible turns.

Public demonstrations will be part of the training school but have not been announced as yet.

## Firemen Douse Rubbish Blaze At Photo Studio

A fire in a metal rubbish barrel at Brehmer's photography studio, 90 Merchants Row, was quickly extinguished yesterday by firemen. The department was summoned by a tenant who smelled smoke when arriving for work at 8:07 a. m.

Damage from the blaze was negligible, according to a fire department spokesman.

Ten rampaging grass fires crackled in various parts of the city from 11:05 a. m. to 3:57 p. m.

Firemen put out grass fires along Vernon, Phillips, East, West and Forest streets, Creek and Stratton roads, and Field and Lincoln avenues.

JUNE 4, 1950

## Fire Damages Restaurant

Loss in Partition Blaze at Terminal Cafe Is Estimated at \$2500.

A fire in the ceiling partition of the Terminal restaurant on Merchants Row, which caused damage estimated at \$2500, was extinguished by the Rutland Fire department last night.

Origin of the fire was believed to have been a short-circuit in the connection box which is attached to the electric transformer.

Firemen were forced to tear down some light fixtures and rip a large gash in the ceiling of the restaurant to reach the blaze where it was beginning to spread in the partitions. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said that the fire would have been "a bad one" if it had gone another 10 minutes.

Smoke was seen by customers about 20 minutes before the fire department was called to the scene about 7:28 p. m.

Most customers remained undisturbed and stayed at their seats at the counter for some time after firemen began ripping the hole in the ceiling.

Albert W. Macauley, proprietor of the restaurant, said that fire, water, smoke and other damage would come to \$2500. The damage is partially covered by insurance.

The fire department was called to Mill Village during a heavy rain Saturday at 9:28 p. m. A transformer had set the cross arms of a power pole to blaze.

A Central Vermont Public Service corporation crew put the fire out as the firemen held a spotlight on the pole.

Lights in the village were out for a time and some rewiring was necessary, Chief Koltonski said yesterday.

APRIL 20, 1950.

## Alert Firemen Avert Serious Church Fire

A near serious fire at Trinity church was put out in time by an alert Rutland Fire department.

A call at 3:22 p. m. sent engine 4 to the church to extinguish a grass fire at the rear of the church between the parish house and church proper. Seeing that the fire was dangerous the crew called for help immediately and engines 1 and 3 rushed to the scene.

A spark evidently flew under the eaves of the church and burned a bay between two rafters about 15 feet straight up. Assistant Chief Ralph R. Bean said that little damage was done but that a few slates on the roof were knocked off. He added that water and smoke damage was minor.

The engines were back at 3:58 p. m.

Four grass fires were put out in routine order. The fires were on Brown, Robbins and Pine streets and on Stratton road.

MARCH 15, 1950

## Chippenhook Home Burns

George Jenks' House Destroyed in Afternoon Blaze; Cars Block Fire Engine.

Fire destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Jenks of Chippenhook at 3:30 p. m. yesterday.

The fire started in the partitions, according to Jenks, who was sick in bed at the time the blaze began. He said there was no chance of saving any of the furniture in the upstairs where the fire started. With the help of neighbors, however, some of the furniture on the ground floor was taken out.

Engine number 4 of the Rutland Fire department, in answer to a telephone call for aid, ran into difficulties on the road to the Jenks' home. The building was beyond saving when firemen arrived.

On the long road leading to Chippenhook cars in front of the fire truck got stuck in the snowbanks while trying to make room for the engine. Firemen were forced to stop and help the cars out before they could proceed along the narrow road.

When the truck arrived on the scene it was evident that the house was beyond saving. There was no water supply for the firemen to use. They had to rely on the engine booster tank which holds 300 gallons of water. This is enough for about seven minutes of fire fighting, according to Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski.

The firemen wet down surrounding buildings on the farm and kept the fires from spreading to the barns. The house was burned to the ground.

The Jenks, their two sons, George, Jr., 13, and Lawrence C., 10, and Jenks' father, Edward E. Jenks who lives with them, are staying with neighbors temporarily.

## Variety Spice Of Life For City Firemen

Two chimney fires, three grass fires and a hot washing machine motor kept the Rutland Fire department busy yesterday.

The first chimney fire sent engines 1 and 3 to 131 State street at 10:55 a. m. No damage was done and the engines were back eight minutes later.

The second chimney blaze occurred at 128 Walnut street at 7:22 p. m. at a home owned by Roy F. Robinson. No damage was reported.

Grass fires were put out on North street extension, Watkins avenue and Pine street.

A smoking washing machine motor at 25 Church street was cared for at 10 a. m.





Flames roar hungrily through the Sheehan Motors garage in Rutland in a fire yesterday which caused \$100,000 damage as firemen poured water on the doomed building in a losing fight. Hundreds of persons were attracted to the scene by the billowing smoke. Two firemen and two garage employees were slightly injured. Gasoline which became ignited was blamed for the fire. (Other picture Page 7.)

Herald Photo—Merusi.

FEBRUARY 16, 1950.

## Apartment Hit by Fire

Estimated \$200 Damage Done to Room at 50 Summer Street as Oil Burner Backfires.

Approximately \$200 damage was done to the downstairs apartment living room of Kenneth C. Danyou of 50 Summer street yesterday when a draft caused a backfire in an oil burner.

Because Mrs. Danyou happened to come home to lunch from work yesterday a possible large blaze was prevented from spreading to three other apartments in the house.

Unaware that anything was wrong, Mrs. Danyou said she opened the living room door and was confronted with clouds of smoke. The draft from the open door caused the fire to flare up.

Engines 1 and 3 left the fire station at 12:18 p. m. and firemen extinguished the heater flames. They were called back a second time at 2:19 p. m. when Mrs. Danyou discovered the rug smoldering from an unnoticed spark which had fallen underneath.

Firemen who arrived in Engine 1 the second time removed the rug from the house.

Fire scorched the wall behind the burner and several floorboards of the room. Considerable smoke damage was done to the living room furniture.

# \$100,000 Blaze Wrecks Garage

Two Firemen Slightly Injured, 20 Vehicles Destroyed as Flames Race Through Sheehan Motors Structure on South Main Street in Less Than an Hour.

## Cause Undetermined

A raging fire destroyed the Sheehan Motors garage on South Main street at an estimated loss of \$100,000 in little more than an hour yesterday afternoon as hundreds watched the spectacular blaze.

Two firemen were injured, neither of them seriously, while fighting the flames, and two garage employees were burned slightly in fleeing the burning structure.

Most of the building was leveled to the ground, leaving only the charred and smoking remains of the structure and the burned-out hulks of about 20 vehicles.

Only the north-most end of the garage, containing offices and a showroom, remained standing.

The fire started in the south end of the building, where gasoline being drawn by garage employees became ignited in some unexplained manner.

A brisk wind coming from the south swept the roaring flames up the length of the building and toward Babbitt's garage, separated from Sheehan's only by a narrow alleyway.

Babbitt's, menaced by huge masses of flames and intermittent showers of sparks, escaped undamaged through the efforts of firemen, who were aided by a light covering of snow on the roof.

John A. Olson of 86 South Main street, a regular member of the Rutland Fire department, was pinned under a falling section of sheet metal wall.

Fellow firemen pulled Olson out of his boots in rescuing him from under the wall section. He suffered a bruised right foot

and ankle, according to Dr. William J. Powers, department physician.

Patrick H. Mangan, another regular fireman, suffered moderate burns from the intense heat while directing a stream of water into the roaring blaze.

Mangan was treated by Dr. Powers at the fire station for second degree burns on the right forearm, left shoulder and left leg.

Joseph H. Czachor of Center Rutland, a mechanic, suffered a burn on his right arm before fleeing the building.

Ralph J. Lessor of 84 Harrington avenue, shop manager, had the back of his head scorched.

The alarm was telephoned to the fire department at 4:45 p. m.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, who observed the thick clouds of black smoke pouring out of the building as he raced down South Main street from station No. 2, pulled Box 31 at the corner of South Main and Park streets as soon as he arrived at the scene.

All of the department's equipment and men, including off duty and call firemen, responded to the alarm.

Firemen concentrated on saving Babbitt's and the north end of the Sheehan building.

About 40 men manned eight lines of hose in pouring water into the flaming structure. A booster line was used to quench sparks which occasionally began smoking on the roof of Babbitt's garage.

Firemen laid about 5000 feet of hose, using city hydrants on South Main street at the Park and Allen street intersections, another hydrant on Allen street and a private hydrant in front of Sheehan's.

Chief Koltonski said the blaze was brought under control about 5:30 p. m., only 45 minutes after the first alarm, although the doomed rear section of the garage was still flaming.

The fire chief said he considered calling in outside help shortly before the fire was finally brought under control.

Czachor said he looked up to see the fire spreading rapidly through the building. He said he dashed for the cars, along with the other mechanics, to drive them outside to safety. He said there was no time for a second trip.

He said about 20 new and used vehicles were stranded in the garage by the swiftness with which the flames spread. Later, as firemen battled the blaze, several small explosions could be heard from inside the structure. Presumably they were caused by the car gas tanks going up.

One explosion — slightly larger than the others — lifted the roof of the center section several feet. The raised section remained in position above the walls for half hour while the flames swept out through the gap.

Bud Seward, another mechanic, said the fire started at the south end of the building near the oil burner. He was one of the half dozen who managed to drive a car to safety.

As the fire mounted in intensity many of the spectators who had crowded too close for comfort were driven back by the heat.

High flying sparks and burning embers, many of which fell on the adjoining Babbitt Motors company, prompted fire department officials to station a double watch on the roof of the still untouched structure.

The twin guards patrolled the ridge line, using a booster line to wet down the covering and to extinguish blazing chunks as they landed on the roof.

During the height of the fire the sparks fell on Babbitt's like rain.

Flames that licked out from the south end of the building bit through telephone cables nearby, knocking 38 telephones out of commission, according to company officials.



## Fire Damages Station Here

Roof of RR Depot at Center Rutland Partially Burned in \$2000 Blaze.

Damage estimated at \$2000 by fire department officials resulted from a blaze which partially burned off the roof of the Rutland railroad station at Center Rutland yesterday.

Firemen were called to the scene at 10:21 a. m. Two engines responded to the alarm. Firemen used two booster lines and a line from the Vermont Marble company pump on Otter creek to extinguish the blaze.

Fire department officials said the blaze was caused by a spark igniting the roof of the building, which is owned by the Rutland railroad and leased by the Delaware & Hudson railroad.

Damage was confined to the attic and roof. The building is insured, according to M. Scott Gooding, secretary-assistant treasurer of the Rutland railroad.

Engine 1 returned from the blaze at 11:36 a. m. while Engine 4 returned at 11:38 a. m.

During the railroad station fire, Engine 2 was called to extinguish a grass fire back of Coolidge avenue at 11:06 a. m. Firemen returned to the station at 12:37 p. m. No damage was reported.

Earlier firemen had been called to the Charles E. Crossman farm in East Clarendon where they extinguished a chimney and stove-pipe blaze with no damage reported. Engine 1 responded to the alarm at 9:16 a. m. and returned to the station at 9:40 a. m.

## Fire Destroys Amateur Radio Station Here

Fire believed to have started from an overheated stove destroyed the amateur radio station and the converted garage in the rear of the home of Harry Noyes of 120 Forest street early Saturday morning.

The blaze, which also consumed new equipment recently purchased by the owner to be used in converting the station to civilian defense needs, was discovered by Noyes at 12:30 a. m.

Noyes was down cellar in his home fixing the furnace, he said, when the lights went out. He told firemen that when he went upstairs to look at the fuses, he heard crackling and discovered the blaze in the garage which he had converted into a radio station.

Noyes said he awoke neighbors who telephoned the fire department.

MARCH 30, 1951.

## Quick Work By Firemen Saves Dorr Dr. Home

Flames destroyed an attached shed and threatened the single-family, wooden-frame dwelling on Dorr drive owned and occupied by Thomas Hughes at 10:30 a. m. yesterday.

Firemen said the blaze was started by three children of the owner, who set fire to grass near the shed and after first trying to extinguish it ran to the home of a neighbor who called firemen.

The father was at work and the mother had stepped out of the house at the time, firemen reported.

Firemen arriving in response to the telephone call found the shed a roaring inferno, fed by a 55-gallon drum of kerosene which had been stored in the building. They used a water line to knock down the flames.

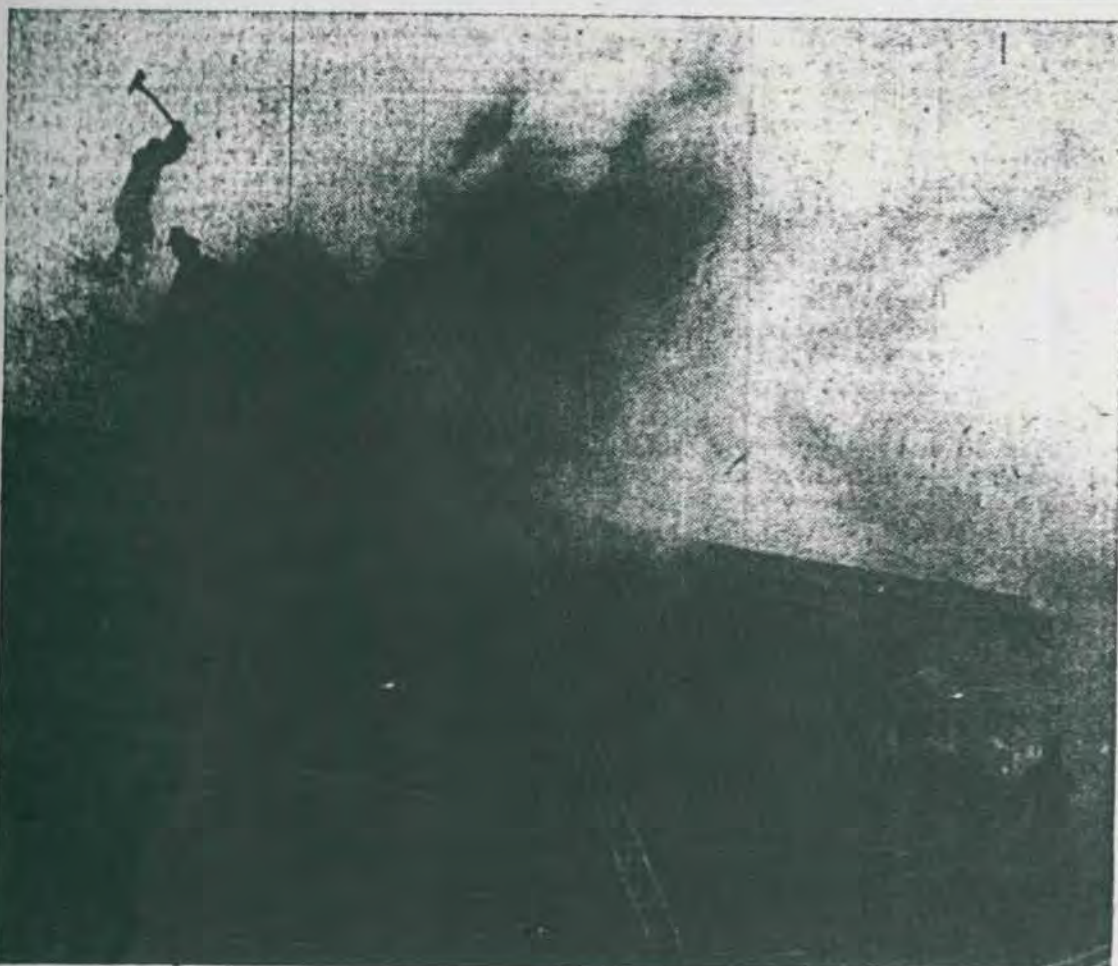
A door leading from the shed into the kitchen of the house was burned through, but firemen were able to keep the flames from spreading further into the house which suffered considerable damage from smoke.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said it was fortunate fire apparatus was all in the station when the call was received, as firemen arrived just in time to save the dwelling.

Had all apparatus been out on grass fires, as it often is at this time of year, there is no question but that the house would have been destroyed along with the shed, he said.

The chief also issued a warning to parents against allowing children to play with matches.

One other call was answered during the day. It was for a grass fire at 206 Columbian avenue at 8:42 a. m.



Miner Studio Photo.

Smoke billows up through the roof of the Rutland Railroad station at Center Rutland which sustained \$2000 damage by fire yesterday. The building, leased by the Delaware & Hudson railroad, was ignited by a spark. The morning blaze was confined mostly to the roof of the structure.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 27, 1950.

## Fire Damage Set at \$500

West Street Apartment House Blaze Forces Entire Department Into Action.

The city's entire fire-fighting force was called out yesterday to battle an apartment house blaze at 363 West street at 10:30 a. m., which resulted in damage estimated at \$500 by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski.

The general alarm fire, which started in a waste-paper basket in the kitchen of an apartment occupied by Mr. and Mrs. James T. Gleason and family, was discovered by Gleason, an employee of the Smith Lumber company. Mrs. Gleason was working and the children were at school at the time.

The fire burned into the partitions and ceiling of the kitchen, then mushroomed along the floor joists to the second floor. Firemen were forced to open up the partitions and ceiling of the kitchen and some partitions on the second floor in order to get at the blaze.

A traffic problem was created by a hydrant line across West street. Four police officers were detailed to divert traffic away from the fire scene.

Engines 1 and 3 were first sent to the blaze, but a quick survey of the situation convinced the smoke-eaters that they would need additional equipment to extinguish the blaze. Engines 2 and 4 and the ladder truck were called to the scene at 10:39 a. m. The service car left the station for the fire at 10:49 a. m.

The building is owned by Neile D. Bradley of 57 Bellevue avenue.

## Fast Action Of Passerby Cuts House Fire Loss

Quick action of a passerby saved the house of Francis C. Capeless on 16 Howard avenue from possible destruction by fire last night. The house was unoccupied at the time of the blaze.

Alan C. Merritt of 8 Sargent avenue saw flames in the cellar of the house as he was walking by and immediately summoned the fire department.

When they arrived on the scene fire officials said the blaze was eating at the cellar ceiling in a partitioned storage area. Several floor joists also were burned.

Extensive smoke damage was reported throughout the two-story house.

## Fire Damages Kitchen In Spruce St. Home

Fire that originated in an oil stove at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Barrucco of 104 Spruce street swept through the kitchen of the home and occupied city firemen for more than half an hour last night as they used streams from booster tanks on the stubborn blaze.

The kitchen was extensively damaged firemen said, but the blaze was confined to that room and no smoke or water damage was reported to the rest of the home.

The alarm was received at 6:34 p. m., and firemen returned to the station at 7:10.

## Skis Lost In Garage Fire At Jenkins' Home

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed several pairs of skis and electrical equipment in a garage owned by George W. Jenkins of 32 Church street yesterday afternoon.

Firemen who responded to a telephone alarm with two engines said the blaze thoroughly scorched the inside of the garage, partly used as a machine shop, before it was brought under control with the aid of three booster lines.

Jenkins said last night the fire may have started from a short circuit in a radio. Engines 1 and 3 of the local department answered the alarm at 1:48 p. m. and were back at the firehouse at 2:22 p. m.

Fire in an overheated tar kettle in Rutland railroad yards near Post street was extinguished by railroad workers shortly before firemen arrived in answer to an alarm at 8:59 a. m. yesterday. Firemen said the railroad men extinguished the blaze by throwing sand over the kettle.



# \$75,000 Fire Cripples Eddy Ice Company

Eight Buildings Levelled by Blaze Aided by Shifting Wind, Water Shortage.

## Home Is Threatened

A disastrous \$75,000 fire leveled eight buildings of the Eddy Ice company, inc. plant on the Cold River road yesterday morning.

Destroyed were four old ice houses, two storage houses, a barn and a refrigerator storehouse.

The manufactured ice plant, where most of the plant's operations are carried on, came through the fire unscathed.

Aided by a shifting wind, the blaze of undetermined origin swept unchecked through one building, spread quickly to others adjacent to it, and threatened a home situated in the direct path of intense heat and flaming sparks.

Firemen who answered the call at 10:10 a. m. found two buildings "practically in ashes" when they arrived. Six other buildings, some packed with inflammable insulation and sawdust, caught fire quickly afterwards.

Two of the buildings were recently remodeled into cold storage plants and equipped with new machinery valued at approximately \$23,000, according to Edward M. Copps, president-manager of the company.

Copps said the plant was only partially insured.

Firefighters who fought the blaze throughout the late morning were hampered by a lack of water. With no hydrant system available, City firemen worked to erect a makeshift dam in nearby Mussey brook to get sufficient water to fight the blaze. A total of 2000 feet of hose from the two fire engines at the scene was laid.

Herman E. Tardy of North Clar-

(Continued on Page Six.)

OCTOBER 11, 1951.

# Fire Cripples Ice Company

(Continued from Page One.)

endon, a passerby, led three head of cattle from the barn.

Perley C. Spafford, who lives in a nearby house on the Cold River road, noticed the fire and notified an employee of the plant, Ralph Peck, who turned in the alarm.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said he believed the fire started in the plant's garage, soon after a truck pulled out.

Three different times the fire endangered a home several feet away, occupied by John F. Eddy and his family. A gentle northwest wind bore sparks through the air and touched off a small fire under the eaves of the two-story house. The roof of the home was in flames as the firefighters deployed several hoses on the spreading blaze. After it was extinguished with a heavy dose of water, the eaves caught once again and it was put out for the second time. Shortly afterwards, a small blaze again started to snake up the roof, but was extinguished before it had a chance to penetrate the building.

Occupants of the house said that in addition to a burned roof, the home received some smoke and water damage.

The plant's office building situated a short distance away from the main buildings was touched but otherwise undamaged.

Lost in the main buildings, according to President-Manager Copps, were two compressors, a large pump and 22 refrigerators. A large supply of white oak lumber and insulation stored in the barn burned quickly.

Copps said four men were working in the plant when the fire started but all escaped without burns.

Only one person was reported injured at the fire. Mrs. Beattie Lloyd, a resident of the Cold River road, was struck on the head by a clothes tree while helping to remove blankets and clothing from the threatened Eddy house. Four stitches were required to close the cut.

Several homes in the immediate vicinity of the plant were threatened by sparks. Fire Chief Koltonski said 14 City firemen fought the blaze in "intense heat."

Firemen said they were unable to get water from Muzzey pond because the engines' hoses failed to reach that far. In order to get suction, an engine would have to get within 22 feet of the water, firemen explained.

The fire continued to burn throughout the afternoon and smoldered late into the evening and night.

Started about 60 years ago, the plant is managed by President Copps. Mrs. Marie C. Pate of 47 Terrill street is secretary-treasurer and John F. Eddy is a stockholder.

## FIRE GUTS BUILDING ON SO. MAIN ST.

A storage building back of the Union Furniture Company, Inc., at 162 South Main street was gutted Saturday afternoon by a fire believed to have been caused by sparks from a nearby incinerator. Two engines and a crew of seven firemen fought the blaze from 2 to 2:30 p. m. after removing stove and oil burner parts stored inside the small building. Grass fires were extinguished Saturday at 130 Killing-ton avenue, on the Gleason road and in Mendon.

# City Firehouse Not The Same Since Beagle Mascot Disappeared

No matter how you look at it, things aren't the same at the Rutland firehouse at city hall. They haven't been the same since last Monday, when "Prince," the firemen's eight-year-old beagle mascot, disappeared.

For the past eight years, Prince has occupied a familiar niche in the hearts of the hardened fire-eaters. A fire alarm would clang and "Prince" would leap up from deep slumber and rush down the stairs to the room where the big red firetrucks are parked, ready for any call.

The dog would bark and jump and wag his tail as the firemen jumped on the trucks. Occasionally, he'd find an empty spot next to the driver in the cab and go roaring off through the city, barking through the open door.

At the fire, he'd sniff the smoke and bark excitedly, like a proud mother watching her son parade down Main street on his way to a fierce battle.

Capt. James J. Rice, the dog's owner, says Prince would bark at almost anyone who came into the fire station—unless he wore a uniform. He knew all the firemen and policemen in the building and wasn't fooled when they changed into street clothes.

Almost every afternoon he'd walk his beat with Patrolman Dennis J. Noonan, leaving the policeman's side only occasionally to sniff a telephone pole or bark raucously at a sneering and unimpressed cat.

He was everybody's friend at the firehouse. While the regular department crew would sit watching Milton Berle or Ed Sullivan on the television set, Prince would snuggle up under a chair or table and slumber the hours away.

Old age crept up on the old warrior like an unrelenting thief. He wasn't able to hop into the cab with as much grace and carefree abandon as in the old days. He'd need a gentle assist from one of the boys.

Last Monday, Prince was let

out of the firehouse for his daily romp around the yard. That was the last anybody saw of him. Capt. Rice laughs at the suggestion he may have become lost. "He was too cagey for that."

"Maybe he was stolen and maybe he's hurt somewhere," the captain says, "but one thing's for sure—wherever he is, he's just aching to get back with the boys. He's not the roaming type."

# Fire Losses In City Low

Chief Koltonski Says 1951 Damage of \$26,263 Lowest Since 1947.

Unless an epidemic of fires strikes Rutland before Tuesday, the amount of fire damage in the city this year will be the lowest since 1947, Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said last night.

The amount of fire damage for 1951 through Thursday totaled \$26,263.01, compared with \$118,511.66 for all of 1950.

In 1947, the damage was \$16,300, the lowest for the previous 19 years.

The fire department had answered 341 alarms this year through Thursday. The total number of alarms answered in 1950 was 434, or 93 more, Chief Koltonski said.

Winter, which hit Rutland early, has kept down the number of grass fires which boosted the number of alarms last year, particularly in October, November and December, according to Chief Koltonski.

Thus far, Rutland has not had a major fire this year. Last year's damage total was swollen by large fires at Paul's cleaners and Sheehan's Motors, Inc.

Chief Koltonski, who is preparing his annual department report, said complete figures for 1951 fire department "business" would be available next week.

# Children In Path of Fire

Four River Street Youngsters More Frightened Than Hurt When Chimney Blazes.

Four River street children left at home when their mother went to visit their father at Rutland hospital were frightened but apparently unhurt last night when smoke from a defective chimney poured through the two-story house.

The fire occurred in a home occupied by Charles Dougherty at 61 River street, presently recuperating at the local hospital from a recent operation.

Firemen said a partition behind the living room stove, where the fire originated, was partially destroyed by flames. The clogged chimney sent a large amount of smoke throughout the home, but no other damage was reported.

Neighbors who saw the smoke entered the home and removed the children. Mrs. Dougherty, notified of the fire at the hospital, returned home immediately.

Firemen answered the alarm with two engines at 7:25 p. m. and returned to the firehouse at 7:55 p. m.

# Gas Fumes Hamper Fire Fighting Job

Sulphur-dioxide fumes spreading from a burning refrigerator plant at John Fucci's store on Allen street yesterday forced firemen to don gas masks to get close enough to put out the fire.

Firemen, who answered the call at 1 p. m. said a wave of fumes drove them back from the door of the refrigeration room, causing acute discomfort to those close to the door. They said the fire was not very widespread and was soon doused when men with masks brought a booster line into action.

Cause of the fire was undetermined, officials said. Damage was placed at about \$300.

# Overheated Stovepipe Causes Fire in Home

A fire inside the walls of a frame house at 172 Adams street was extinguished by the Rutland fire department after more than an hour's work with hose and axe yesterday afternoon.

Firemen said the damage to the house, owned by Earl Flanders, was negligible. The occupants are George D. Kittle and Harold Whittemore.

Engines 1 and 3, answering the telephone alarm at 1:13 p. m. found the fire burning in a partition between the walls. The blaze was apparently caused by an overheated stovepipe, fire fighters said, with smoke curling from the attic windows giving the first alarm.

Firemen answered another call at 8 p. m. yesterday to put out a fire feeding on a pile of rubbish on the Crestwood property, corner of Grove street and Library avenue. Water was poured on the blaze for the better part of a half hour and the engine returned to the station at 8:38 p. m.

A grass fire in a vacant lot at 168 Forest street was reported at 4:23 p. m. Engine 4, which answered the call, extinguished the blaze and was back in the station at 4:44 p. m.



## Fight Paul's Shop Fire



Herald Photo.

Rutland firemen direct high pressure hoses at rising flames which destroyed several thousand dollars worth of garments, machinery and fixtures in Paul's tailor shop at 45 Center street Saturday at 3 a. m. More than 2000 customers owned clothing which was consumed by the blaze, according to Joseph R. Paul, vice president of the establishment.

## Fire Damage May Exceed \$30,000

Credit Fireproof Walls With Saving of Apparatus Valued at \$25,000 During Blaze Which Gutted Paul's Dry Cleaning Establishment.

Fireproof walls saved an estimated \$25,000 worth of dry cleaning apparatus in an early Saturday morning blaze which gutted Paul's dry cleaning and tailor shop at 45 Center street, destroying garments belonging to more than 2000 customers.

Joseph R. Paul, vice president of the establishment, declared yesterday that his firm will make good all claims for clothing lost in the fire.

Paul declined to estimate damage, pending investigation by insurance agents. It is possible that the loss will exceed the \$30,000 estimate made by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltanski.

Cause of the fire, which started somewhere in the basement of the modern store building remodelled about two years ago, is still undetermined, according to Assistant Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean.

The ground floor of the building, where rising flames swept along orderly racks of combustible clothing, suffered most from the flames.

Chief Koltanski and firemen Harold A. Carmichael and J. Billy Ballard suffered glass cuts while smashing through the store's plate glass window shortly after 3 a. m. Saturday. Fireman George W. Peck, 34, received a nail wound in the foot while fighting the blaze inside the building.

Carmichael, Ballard and Peck are volunteer call-men who rushed to the scene along with a crowd of 500 spectators when the recently repaired fire alarm signal screamed its sudden warning, at 3:05 a. m.

The blaze was simultaneously noticed by Hotel Herwick night clerk Robert T. Ostiguy, hotel fireman Ernest G. Harvey, Jr., and night watchman Fletcher Chapin. Berwick personnel phoned the fire department while police sergeant

Charles F. Callahan turned in an alarm from box 47.

Gas mask equipped firemen were enveloped in a thick cloud of smoke as they drenched impinging flames with 750 gallons of water per minute from three hoses.

Two engines and a ladder truck blocked Center street while a third engine was posted at the rear of the building to check possible spread of flames along the back alley. Had the fire spread through wood structures in the alley the entire block might have been consumed, according to Bean.

Although protected by a fire wall between the Hotel Berwick and the neighboring cleaning establishment, hotel guests were alerted shortly after the fire began. Clusters of pajama-clad transients talked excitedly in the lobby as police reinforcements restrained the large outdoor crowd and directed traffic.

Dawn streaked the sky as fire engines returned to their stations at 4:57 a. m.

The charred store presented a dismal aspect yesterday as half-burned piles of shirts and rows of water-soaked clothing, still hanging along numerous metal racks, emphasized the extent of personal loss caused by the fire.

One of two dry cleaning plants, insulated by fire walls, was completely unscarred, though surrounded by a chaos of burned wood and twisted metal.

The establishment's pine board front office, untouched by flames, was almost completely ruined by smoke and heat. Second-floor offices in the building suffered moderate smoke damage.

A local firm has offered its dry cleaning facilities until Paul reopens his own plant. The burned store will transfer front office operations to an empty shop directly across the street, Paul said yesterday.

NOVEMBER 1, 1952

## Flames Destroy Old, Covered Billings Bridge

Historic Billings bridge at the foot of Park street, one of the last covered bridges in this area, was destroyed by fire last night.

The bridge, closed for about three weeks, was "undoubtedly set afire," an official of the Rutland Fire department said.

He said he didn't know whether or not it was a Halloween prank, but every indication was that the bridge was purposely set ablaze.

The Rutland Fire department received the alarm from police at 11:00 p. m. When firemen arrived at the scene the entire structure was burning from end to end.

The blaze sent billows of spark clouds soaring into the night air over Otter creek, attracting a large crowd of residents to the area.

Within two minutes after firemen arrived the ancient wooden span collapsed into Otter creek.

The fire continued to eat away at the timbers slanting down to the water from the abutments until after midnight.

Rutland Town selectmen have been debating whether to restore or replace the bridge with a modern steel and concrete structure.

Last decision of the selectmen was to leave the bridge closed during the winter and take the matter up next Spring.

## Fire Sweeps Apartment

Damage to South Main Street Building Set at \$1000; Stored Furniture Lost.

Fire did an estimated \$1000 damage to a second floor apartment at 254 South Main street last night in the second of two serious weekend blazes in the city.

The fire started about 8:30 p. m. in an apartment occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Francis Reed while the couple was out for the evening. Other tenants in the six-apartment house smelled smoke and sent Carl H. Maxham, owner of the house, in search of the source.

He found the attic filled with smoke and called the department immediately. Firemen found the blaze and forced their way into the locked apartment to douse the flames.

A davenport, chair, radio, rug, lamp and table were lost in the blaze.

Cause of the fire was not determined but Reed thought that it started in his radio.

Twenty-one persons live in the apartment house.

Both engines returned at 9:25 p. m.

A fire of undetermined origin destroyed an estimated \$500 worth of household furnishings in a garage at 240 Church street Saturday night.

Firemen fought the blaze from 10:50 p. m. until 12:30 a. m., and were called back at 2:30 a. m. to extinguish a number of smoldering mattresses stored in the building.

The garage, owned by Mrs. Bessie White of 129 State street, was operated by Kenneth DeLong in connection with the latter's trucking business. DeLong, who lives at the Church street address, lost a quantity of mechanical equipment as well as the furniture and bedding stored in the garage.

The flames completely gutted the garage and scorched the paint on the home of James R. Powers, 244 Church street. The DeLong home escaped damage.

Fireman John Barrett suffered minor burns on his right arm fighting the blaze.

The fire department extinguished two small grass fires on Saturday, the first at 1:40 p. m. behind the G. H. Grimm company on Pine street and the other at 9:21 p. m. on James street.

A false alarm through fire box number 65 sent engines 1 and 3 to Granger and Plain streets yesterday at 5:45 p. m.

## Ianni Garage Sustains Heavy Fire Damage

The garage at 383 West street owned by Napoleon W. Ianni, director of the Rutland City band, was badly damaged by fire at 4:32 p. m. yesterday.

Firemen who answered a telephone call said flames, believed to have been started when sparks from a rubbish fire blew in the open doors of the garage, caused considerable damage to the interior of the wooden frame structure.

One other call was answered by the department during the day. A telephone call was received at 3:43 p. m. for a chimney fire at the home of Thomas Gilson at 37 Elm street. Firemen reported no damage.



SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 6, 1950.

## Man Burned In Barn Fire

A. H. Cox Hospitalized After Trying to Save Horses From Blazing Structure.

A general alarm fire shortly after noon yesterday resulted in serious burns being suffered by Arthur H. Cox of 1 Freeman avenue as he tried to rescue three horses from his blazing barn.

The fire, the origin of which had not been traced last night, started in a small outbuilding and spread to a large barn not many feet away. When firemen arrived shortly after the first call at 12:07 p. m. the blaze threatened the Cox home.

Smoke-eaters concentrated their first efforts on saving the house. They succeeded in averting that danger and turned their attention to the barn. Engines 2 and 3 were the first to reach the scene, but a quick survey showed that additional help was needed to fight the blaze and Engine 4 was called. Shortly afterward, the whistle alarm was sounded from Box 381.

Low water pressure hampered the fire-fighting. Engine 2 was used to pump water from a hydrant on the corner of Stratton road and Freeman avenue to the blazing buildings and 800 feet of hose were laid. Five police officers were on duty near the fire area, keeping highway approaches to the blaze clear. Hundreds of persons drove out to view the fire.

Cox and his wife tried to extinguish the fire before fire-fighters arrived, but their efforts proved unsuccessful. Mrs. Cox succeeded in saving three cows which were housed in the barn, but Cox was badly burned when he tried to rescue the horses. The three horses suffocated in the barn.

Firemen took four hours to kill the blaze, since hay stored in the barn smoldered long after the fire itself was out. Eight to 10 tons of hay in the barn had to be removed and hosed to prevent a rekindling of the blaze.

Damage was estimated at \$1000 by fire department officials. The hayloft and the top part of the barn were badly burned, but the bottom section was not damaged too badly. The small outbuilding was completely destroyed. Damage to the house was slight.

Dr. Victor F. Pisanelli took Cox to the hospital where he was treated for second and third degree burns on the face, back and hands. Cox was reported in fair condition at the hospital by Dr. Pisanelli late yesterday.

AUGUST 6, 1951

## Mattress Fire Causes No Damage at Rectory

A smoldering mattress in a bedroom of St. Peter's rectory, corner of Convent avenue and Meadow street, caused some minor excitement but substantially no damage yesterday evening.

City firemen who smothered the blaze were unable to say how the fire started. Engines 1 and 3 answered the alarm at 6:36 p. m. and returned to the firehouse at 7 p. m.

MAY 28, 1951

## Fireman Hurt Quelling Fire

Charles McGinnis Suffers Knee Injury During \$1000 Blaze That Threatened Theater.

One fireman was injured and damage estimated at close to \$1000 was caused when fire, believed to have started in an old lumber pile, threatened the Bardwell garage and Paramount theater building late Saturday afternoon.

Fireman Charles J. McGinnis of 77 Baxter street suffered slight injuries to a knee when he stepped off a ramp while carrying fire-fighting equipment during the height of the blaze, which attracted hundreds of Saturday shoppers to the scene.

Firemen, first responding to a telephone call received at 5:33 p. m., found flames had practically consumed an old lumber pile between the Bardwell garage, occupied by Ray Beane, Inc., and the Paramount theater building, and had spread to a wooden ramp leading to the second floor of the garage.

An alarm was sounded from Box 47 calling all available apparatus to the scene and firemen quickly extinguished the fire with two booster lines and two large water lines from a hydrant.

However, before the flames were completely knocked down they had entered the partitions of the second floor of the garage, after they had traveled up the corner of the building and damaged the ramp.

Fire officials said they had not determined the cause of the blaze, but added several persons had reported seeing some boys pass through the alley a short time before the fire was discovered.

One other call was answered by the fire department over the weekend. This call came at 11:30 a. m. yesterday and was for a dump fire off Park street.

## Unidentified Man Dies In Post St. Fire

An unidentified man lost his life in a fire which almost completely destroyed a two-story barn adjacent to the home of Demetrio Pratico at 137 Post street last night.

The body, police said, was unrecognizable when it was found among the remains of a cot on the second floor. Pratico, owner of the building, said he used the barn for storing old furniture and lumber.

Firemen said they were unable to determine how the blaze started. Two engines answered the alarm at 8:50 p. m.

Neighbors reported that Pratico had two pots in the barn's second story, and often allowed transients to use them overnight. One person reported hearing screams from the building during the fire, but this was unconfirmed.

Dr. J. W. Spelman, state pathologist, will perform an autopsy here tomorrow at the request of Chief of Police J. Fred Carbine and State's Attorney Martin Dellivenerl.

MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 1, 1951.

## Fire Victim Is Identified

Police Conclude Henry Cleary, Plumber's Helper, Died in Post Street Barn Blaze.

The body found in the fire-swept ruins of a two-story barn at 137 Post street Friday night was identified late Saturday night as that of Henry J. Cleary, 45, a plumber's helper.

Police Chief J. Fred Carbine said last night identity had been fixed purely by circumstantial evidence as the body had been burned beyond recognition.

So intense was the blaze in the immediate vicinity of where the body was found by firemen, who responded to an alarm at 8:50 p. m. Friday, that State Fire Marshal Chester Kirby said he believed the blaze was started from an overturned lantern.

The body was identified through information furnished by friends and acquaintances, who identified charred bits of clothing and some articles, which they knew Cleary had in his pockets when last seen at 7:30 p. m. headed for the barn, owned by Demetrio Pratico.

While the person who refused Cleary's invitation to spend the night in the barn identified articles found near the body as belongings of Cleary, it was Barney Mullaney, West Rutland plumber, with whom Cleary worked at times, and James Fallon of 320 West street, a friend, who clinched identification, Chief Carbine said.

Articles which served police in fixing identity of the fire victim were listed by Chief Carbine as a partly used package of Bull Durham tobacco, a new package of Chesterfield cigarettes, 83 cents in change, a rolled up cap and a white cloth with a red border, which Cleary had been carrying early in the day.

In an attempt to establish identity Chief Carbine, who was assisted by Lt. John Peters, identification officer of the state police, Sheriff Geno N. Franzoni, State's Attorney Martin J. Dellivenerl, State Detective Almo B. Franzoni and City Health Officer Charles D. Beale, canvassed all dental offices seeking a dental chart.

He said, however, that Dr. Joseph W. Spelman, state pathologist, who performed an autopsy Saturday, had informed him the body was so badly burned positive identity by the teeth would have been almost impossible.

MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 27, 1951.

## Defective Chimney Is Blamed for House Fire

A defective chimney was blamed for a fire which destroyed partitions around the chimney on the first and second floors of a home owned and occupied by William J. Sullivan at 35 Williams street yesterday morning.

Engines 1 and 3 of the local fire department answered the alarm at 10:21 a. m. Firemen said the partition around the chimney on the first floor caught fire after a wood fire had been started in the furnace. The blaze then traveled up the chimney to the second floor.

With the aid of two booster tanks, firemen were successful in keeping the fire confined to the area around the chimney on the first and second floors. Little smoke damage resulted.



## SmokeFumes Bring Death To City Man

Joseph H. Martin, 31, Succumbs in Apartment After Small Mattress Fire.

### Falls in Escape Try

Fumes from a smoldering mattress in his apartment at 13 Evergreen avenue asphyxiated Joseph H. Martin, 31, early yesterday.

City police said the victim, a steward at the Eagles clubrooms here until two months ago, was found naked about 3:30 a. m. face down on the living room floor, where he fell in an apparent attempt to reach a door or window.

Ruling his death accidental, Dr. Charles H. Beale, city health officer, estimated Martin died of suffocation sometime between midnight and 3 a. m.

Thick smoke completely filled the small, second-story apartment when Martin's half-brother, James F. Farrell of 2 Tenney Brook court, discovered the tragedy.

Near the highly inflammable feather mattress, which was reduced to a small pile of ashes, city police found a pack of cigarettes.

Farrell told police he had visited his half-brother the night before and found him smoking in bed.

Unaware of the tragedy yesterday was the victim's mother, Mrs. Ellen A. Martin, 72, recuperating at Rutland hospital from an eye operation Wednesday. She is also suffering from a heart condition, relatives said.

The victim shared the Evergreen avenue apartment with his mother until Tuesday, when she was taken to the hospital. Martin was alone in the apartment, police said, when he died.

The curtains of a window in the apartment's living room were torn off when police arrived yesterday morning, leading officers to assume that Martin clutched them as he tried to open a window for air.

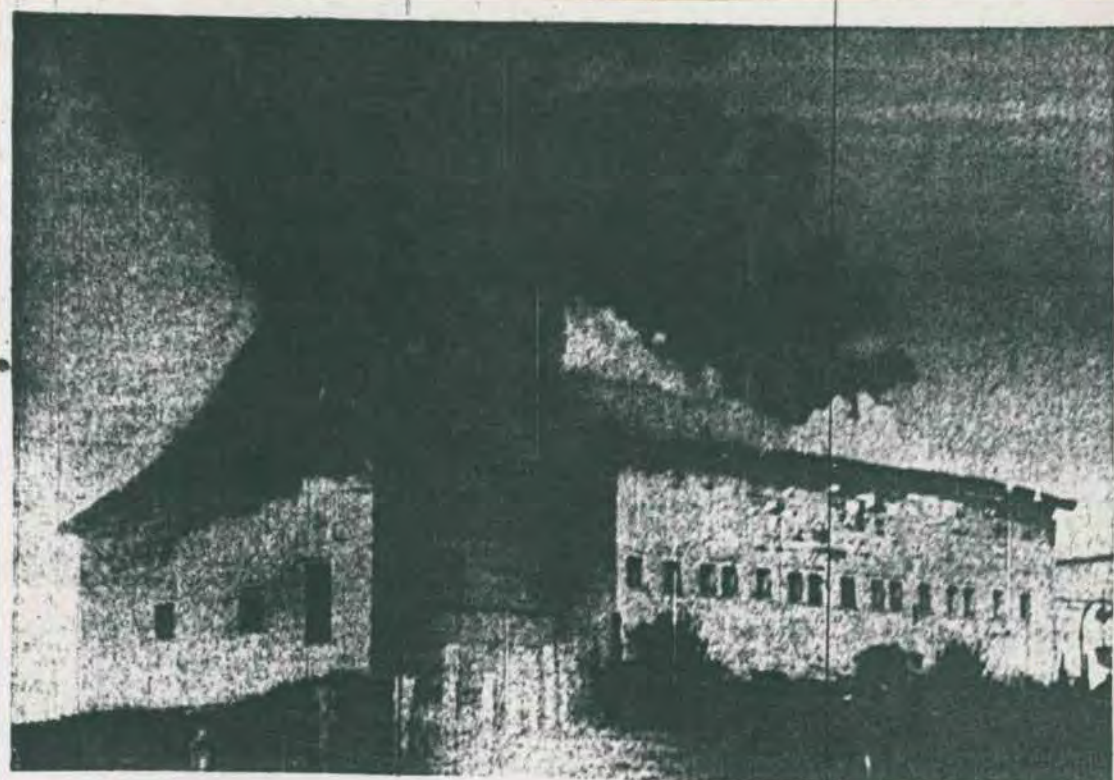


JOSEPH H. MARTIN.

Dr. Beale said the unemployed steward had first degree burns on the left side of his face and chest. He stated they were not serious enough to cause death.

Mr. and Mrs. James L. Mulcahy, who own the house and occupy the first floor, told police they did not smell smoke during the night.

Chief of Police J. Fred Carbine explained that strong drafts would carry escaping smoke upwards, thereby missing the downstairs floor.



**LIGHTNING BOLT DESTRUCTION:** The city farm barn just off upper Woodstock avenue as it was consumed with its 65 tons of hay by fire yesterday. The cupola was struck by the bolt during the electrical-rain storm. Damage was estimated at \$6000. The firemen were working on the other side of the building when this picture was taken.

Herald Photo—Merusi.

## Store Damage Set at \$3000

Roofing Tar Sets Off Blaze at Hy-Way Furniture Company in Center Rutland.

An estimated \$3000 damage, mostly to the building with some smoke damage to stock, was caused by flames that broke out on the roof of the Hy-Way Furniture company's new addition in Center Rutland yesterday morning.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski of the Rutland department, called to the scene at 10:13 a. m., said the fire was caused when a kettle of roofing tar boiled over and burst into flames.

Firemen were forced to use fog nozzles to extinguish the stubborn blaze on the roof of the new addition. Before it was extinguished the fire spread to the wall of the old building.

Company officials said water seeping down into the new addition and smoke which entered the second and third floors of the main building caused about \$3000 damage.

Two other calls were answered by the fire department during the afternoon, both for grass fires and both at the same location on the Creek road. Firemen said they were caused by sparks from the same incinerator.

The first call was received at 12:38 and the second at 2:57 p. m.

## Firemen Start Work Early, Stay at It Late

A call to put out a flaring oil burner woke firemen up at 4:23 a. m. yesterday, and a series of 23 grass fires kept equipment busy until long after the sun went down.

The oil burner, at the home of Bernard Murray of 15 Pine street, was brought under control within a matter of minutes.

A large number of the grass fires, firemen said, were spread over large areas and in some instances threatened houses or outbuildings. This caused the use of more equipment than usual. Eight or 10 pack pumps were used at a fire, instead of the usual three or four.

In six instances the booster line from Engine No. 4 was brought into use. The line was used at 51 Woodstock avenue, 8 Freeman avenue, the corner of Baxter and Oak streets, 210 North Church street, 222 Lincoln avenue, and a field in back of the Loretto home on Meadow street.

One blaze attracting much attention in the Park street area was actually a pile of burning railroad ties.

Other grass fires were at lots on North street extension, East Washington street and Butterfly avenue, 61 Bellevue avenue, 15 North street extension, Meadow street, Avenue D, Water street, 18 Engrem avenue, Coolidge avenue, 28 Lincoln avenue, North street extension and Thrall avenue, 63 East Washington street, 77 North Main street, corner of Temple and Deer streets and the corner of Mona Vista avenue and Division street.

## Barn on City Farm Razed

Lightning Starts Fire in Hay Stored in Structure; Damage Set at \$6000.

A raging fire lasting more than four hours destroyed the City farm barn and its contents, 65 tons of hay, yesterday afternoon.

Total estimated loss was set at \$6000 by John C. Wellwood, overseer of the poor.

The hay stored in the structure was ignited by a bolt of lightning which tore through the building's cupola and traveled down into the haymow, about 11:52 a. m. The old structure was about 1400 feet off Woodstock avenue, adjacent to Stratton road.

Seventeen head of cattle out in the pasture when the fire started were unharmed and workers were successful in rescuing a bull from the building before the fire spread.

Parts of a new milking machine and miscellaneous tools and machinery were destroyed.

The building, familiarly known as the Barker barn, was valued at approximately \$4000 and was partially insured. Some question remained last night whether insurance also covered the 65 tons of hay, valued at approximately \$2000, consumed by the fire.

Three engines of the fire department answered the call at 11:52 a. m. By late afternoon, the fire had destroyed the two-story structure and was being fed by scattered debris.

The fire was kept within bounds and did not reach a nearby machine shed.

Occurring during the lunch hour, the fire drew a large number of sight-seers who created a traffic problem. Two police officers were assigned to the area to keep traffic moving.



## Operation Grass Fire



Herald Photo—Merusi.

Harold A. Carmichael of Edgerton street, a call fireman, uses water from a pack tank to extinguish the grass fire yesterday on Strong's avenue. The fire, one of a series that has kept Rutland firemen on the go over the week-end, was the last straw for Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonaki, who, after conferring with Mayor Dan J. Healy, issued an order that no outside fire be built except in incinerators until further notice.

## Need Aid To Quell Blazes

Off-Duty Firemen Summoned by Alarm as Brush Fires Ring Rutland.

Off-duty and extra firemen were summoned to the aid of overworked regular firemen yesterday as they continued their battle against wind-whipped brush blazes in all outlying sections of the city over the week-end.

At 4 p. m. yesterday fireman Patrick Hurley jumped into Engine 3 alone to answer a fire-call near the Eastern States building on Strong's avenue. He was the last man on the regular shift.

The next call came in before anyone had returned to the station, making it necessary to blow the whistle to call the eight off-duty men and six call men back to the job.

Out of the 12 alarms yesterday, firemen said the worst in the city was on West street back of the Temple Brothers Memorial shops at 12 noon. Fire had worked its way into a rubbish dump full of tar paper and dry wood. A hose was laid from the nearest hydrant to protect the buildings, and the fire was allowed to burn itself out in the Greens Hill area between the railroad tracks and Otter creek.

## Fire Wrecks 3 Buildings

House, Two Garages Destroyed, Second Home Guttled in West Proctor Road Blaze.

Fire of undetermined origin which apparently started in a small garage was fanned into a destructive wave yesterday afternoon, destroying a house and two garages and gutting the top interior of another house on West Proctor road before it was halted.

The home, workshop-garage and a smaller garage of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Alberico near the Rutland-Proctor town line were destroyed. The wind-carried fire swept across a grassy plot and ate out the inside of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Vadenais before it was brought under control by the Proctor and Rutland Fire departments.

One member of the family suffered cuts while helping save furniture in the neighboring house.

Alberico, a disabled World War I veteran, was working in his woodwork shop in the garage at his home about 2 p. m. when his family was notified by a neighbor of a blaze in the smaller garage behind their home.

When the Proctor volunteer fire department arrived about 2:15 p. m. the buildings were beyond saving, according to firemen who put in a call to the Rutland Fire department.

A few pieces of furniture and some clothing were saved from the Alberico home. Downstairs furniture in the Vadenais home was carried outside, badly water damaged. Most of the second-floor furniture was destroyed.

The Vadenais family was driving to Rutland when they heard of the fire. They became entangled in the traffic jam which resulted when more than 300 cars flocked to the scene.

A greenhouse belonging to Alberico, located north of the path of fire, escaped damage. Only a chimney from the woodworking shop and a skeleton of the Alberico home remained about an hour and a half after the fire broke out.

JANUARY 11, 1952.

## Four Families Flee Apartment House Blaze

Four families fled their apartments at 9 Terrill street about 12:30 a. m. yesterday when chimney heat ignited wood in sub-flooring on the first floor and filled the building with smoke.

Leon Jackson, one of the building residents, called city firemen when he smelled smoke.

Firemen, who used two booster lines, and ripped up flooring to put out the fire, said damage to the building was minor. Edward Curtis, building owner, said last night, however, a boiler and the chimney were ruined by the fire.

A spokesman of Lindholm's motors, which occupies the first floor, said no garage equipment was damaged.

Residents who left the building until the fire was extinguished were Mr. and Mrs. Leon Jackson and family, Mrs. Anna Wood, George Mossey, and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Denton and daughter.

OCTOBER 15, 1952

## Blaze Guts Home, Attic

Quick Acting Firemen Confine Fire to Top Story of Royce St. House; Damage \$4000.

An attic fire which started among stored clothing and furniture in a house owned by Nicholas Cupoli at 6 Royce street was extinguished by quick acting firemen yesterday before the flames could spread beyond the upper story.

No one was injured. Cause of the fire was not determined by firemen.

Cupoli said damage was "not more than \$4000."

The heat of the fire cracked the glass in an attic front window and firemen who arrived about 11:20 a. m. first thought the fire was much worse than it turned out to be. They turned in a general alarm to call special firemen to their aid.

After battling through dense smoke with the aid of masks, firemen poured streams of water on the blazing mass of linen, clothing and stored furniture.

A section of partition dividing the attic was charred and partially burned through. Firemen said the floor in the northwest corner of the attic where the fire evidently originated was also scorched and charred.

Practically all of the material in the attic was either scorched by heat or blackened with smoke.

John J. Collins, a neighbor across the street, was the first to notice smoke pouring from the attic front window. He told his wife to call firemen and rushed to aid the Cupolis. Cupoli occupies the east side of the house with his family. His brother, listed as Charles Cooper, lives with his family in the west side.

When Collins rushed in he found Mrs. Cupoli downstairs with three of her four children, Bonnie, 10, Larry, 5, Barry, 4. She rushed upstairs to the second floor to rescue her two-weeks old daughter, Mary Beth. By the time she returned downstairs firemen had arrived.

There was no one in the Cooper side of the house when the fire broke out.

One reason for confinement of the fire to a relatively small area, firemen said, was a sheeting of asbestos across part of the wall dividing the upper sections of the house. However, smoke and heat spread throughout the attic. Testimony to the heat generated by the blaze was a section of melted tar shingles on the outside of the roof.

Mrs. Cupoli's wedding dress and many other items were ruined by smoke. The ceilings of two second-story bedrooms were soaked through, and there were some water stains in rooms on the ground floor.



## Fire Dep't Busy in '50

### Chief Reports More Fires and Greater Damage Than in Preceding Year.

There were more fires, more fire damages, and even more cats stuck up in trees last year than there were in 1949, the Rutland fire department has found in preparing its annual report.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said that the department answered a total of 434 alarms in 1950, compared to the 390 in the preceding year. Of these, 20 were false alarms, but the overall number of fires was probably around 450, since there were some to which the department was never called.

The fire damage, based on the insurance claims paid, was about \$120,000 for the year, Koltonski said, against \$80,000 in 1949.

This figure represents damages in 60 fires, the only ones out of the entire 450-odd blazes in which insurance was collected.

Two major fires, which destroyed Sheehan's garage and gutted Paul's tailor shop, caused more than \$100,000 worth of the overall damage. All told, only four fires during the year brought damages exceeding \$100, Koltonski said.

The fire at Paul's tailor shop on Center street on the morning of July 8 caused a total of \$65,376 in damages, including \$36,620 in refunds to customers whose clothes were stored at the establishment.

Cost of the fire which leveled Sheehan's garage on South Main street in February was set by insurance adjusters at \$41,000, not including the damage to a number of cars stored in the building.

The two other major fires of the year were a \$2260 blaze at the Terminal restaurant on Merchants Row and a \$1200 barn fire at the residence of Arthur H. Cox on Stratton road. All told, fire damages for the year were the greatest since 1945, when a single fire, the blaze which gutted the Outlet store, brought damages totaling \$125,000.

Rutland firemen had 94 "special service" calls in 1950. These are the calls which have nothing to do with extinguishing fires, ranging from storm disaster work to rescuing errant cats from high trees. The department retrieved a grand total of 16 cats from trees last year, a new record, and also, by way of proving that people aren't so smart either, aided three householders who had locked themselves in or out of their abodes.

The biggest month for fires was April, with 143—112 of them grass fires. Chief Koltonski said that April, for some reason, is usually the busiest month for the department, with grass fires resulting from winter clean-up work around the house causing most of the trouble.

Six firemen were injured in the line of duty last year, three in the Sheehan's garage blaze and three more, at the Paul's tailor shop fire. Injuries were either from burns or cuts from shattered glass.

The 434 alarms included 398 telephone calls, 24 fire box alarms, four verbal alarms, four automatic sprinkler alarms and four whistle

alarms, the latter being used when all off-duty firemen must be summoned to help, fight a major blaze.

The department installed one new fire alarm box and replaced three old ones during the year. No new equipment or new personnel were added in 1950.

In general, the past year was an unusually busy one with a particularly large number of grass fires, Koltonski said. Grass fires, comprising about 40 per cent of all the city's blazes, were chiefly responsible for the increase in alarms, according to the chief.

JANUARY 2, 1952

## Garage Fire Damage Set

### Fire Chief Says 'Several Hundred Dollars' Destruction From Early Morning Blaze.

A fire at the former Boardman garage, 230 South Main street, believed to have been caused by a defective heating system, was brought under control quickly by City firemen early yesterday morning.

Damage to the building, used by Sheehan Motors, Inc., was estimated at "several hundred dollars" by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski last night. A spokesman of the Sheehan motor firm said a used car of the firm and two cars of customers were damaged slightly.

The fire was discovered about 2:25 a. m. by Patrolmen Alvar C. Wener and Gerald W. Butterly, who saw flames about 20 feet high shooting through the roof. They radioed police headquarters which notified the fire department.

Engines 1 and 3 left the station at 2:30 a. m. Engine 2 and 4, manned by "day off" firemen summoned by the alarm system, answered a call for more help from firemen at the scene.

Chief Koltonski said the fire apparently started near the top of an oil burner in the one-floor building owned by Herbert Boardman of Tunbridge, former Rutland garageman. The roof and two rooms, formerly used as office and sleeping quarters by Boardman, were damaged.

The two cars owned by customers of Sheehan Motors were damaged by smoke. The top and glass of the third car were damaged.

Chief Koltonski said firemen had no difficulty bringing the blaze under control. Engines returned to the fire station at 4:15 a. m.

THURSDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 11, 1952.

## Young Mother Rescues Her Baby Son From Smoke-Filled Bedroom

A Rutland mother saved her baby son from suffocation yesterday when she snatched him from his crib in a bedroom filled with smoke from a smoldering bed near the child's crib. Mrs. Elizabeth Webster of 172 Baxter street, warned of the fire, by her two-and-a-half-year-old daughter, made three attempts before she reached her two-month-old son, David, as he lay in his crib next to the burning bed as thick clouds of smoke in the upstairs section of the house drove her back.

Firemen, called shortly after 9 a. m., gave the boy treatment with the oxygen inhalator. Dr. J. Carleton Stickney, called to the scene, said the child apparently suffered no bad after-effects from the smoke.

The daughter, Carol, warned her mother, who was downstairs, of trouble by her crying, firemen said. Mrs. Webster said the heavy smoke made her think the fire was much worse than it turned out to be.

Damage from the fire was confined to the bedding and mattress, firemen said.

They used two booster lines on the smoldering blaze, and set up a smoke ejector to clear the upper story.

Cause of the fire was undetermined, they reported.

## Fire Curbed By Sprinkler

### Hotel Bardwell Blaze Confined To Third-Floor Room; Dam- age Estimated at \$1000.

A fire believed started by a careless smoker caused \$1000 damage at Hotel Bardwell Saturday night. It was prevented from spreading by the hotel's sprinkler system.

The blaze, originating about 10 p. m. in a third-floor room, was confined to the room by the sprinkler system and firemen. The room below suffered water damage.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said "serious trouble" would have resulted if it had not been for the sprinklers. He said the room was lighted up by the fire when the department arrived on the scene.

A booster line was taken through the lobby of the hotel while a heavy hose was laid through the back as a precautionary measure, the chief said.

The fire was discovered by Daniel Russell, 18, a bellhop, who smelled smoke while on a room service call on the third floor. He notified Manager George Patch who called the department.

The nearly 100 guests were alerted by the desk. Most of them fled into the lobby where they milled around while the blaze was being extinguished. Many of the guests were skiers.

James Brown, owner, said the sprinkler tripped about the same time the bellhop discovered the blaze. He set the damage figure.

Chief Koltonski said the occupant of the room apparently left the room after dropping or laying down a lighted cigarette. The bed mattress and bed were destroyed. The fire was out at 11:06 p. m.

TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 12, 1952.

## Bove Flees Oil Burner Blast

### Manager of Soft Drink Ware- house Escapes Harm; Dam- age Set at \$1000.

Harmon Bove of 16 Nichols street, manager of the Seven-Up Bottling company warehouse at 399 West street, escaped injury about 10:08 a. m. yesterday when an oil burner in the warehouse office where he was working exploded, causing a fire which damaged the building and equipment.

Bove, working at the adding machine when the heater exploded, grabbed the machine and ran out the door, reaching back through a window to call city firemen before fire ate away the telephone. He also drove three company trucks out of the warehouse before they were damaged.

A typewriter, desk, chair, several cases of Seven-Up and records of the company were damaged, according to a company spokesman.

Louis Ricci, owner of the building occupied by the Seven-Up firm for about two years, estimated damage to the building would exceed \$1000. He said doors, floors, ceilings and windows were damaged.

Firemen who answered the call with Engines 1, 3 and 4, laid one line with a booster. They returned to the station at 11:18 a. m.

**STOP  
SOOT  
FIRES!**



CHIMNEY SWEEP  
USE  
CHIMNEY SWEEP  
Soot Destroyer

FROM  
**LANDON'S**  
Center St.



## Fire Sweeps Farm Buildings



Herald Photo—Merusi  
Height of the \$60,000 blaze which late last night leveled two large barns and two garages at the A. Newman Ranch in Clarendon. The house (right) was saved by firemen. Two bulls, several cows and a calf, plus a tractor and 75 tons of hay, were also lost.

## \$60,000 Fire Sweeps Barn In Clarendon

Flames Roar Through Two Barns and Two Garages on A. Newman Ranch.

### Firemen Lack Water

Windswept flames roared through two large barns and two garages causing upwards of \$60,000 damage at the A. Newman Ranch off Rte. 7 in Clarendon last night and early this morning.

Equipped with only two small booster hoses and aided by a sudden shift in the wind, firemen saved the main house, a small farmhand cottage and a smaller barn, used as a chicken house.

Two valuable bulls, several cows, a veal calf, a new tractor and 75 tons of hay were lost in the fire.

The blaze which burned unattended as firemen concentrated their efforts and meager water supply on the main house and other out buildings, illuminated the sky for miles around. The cause was not determined.

The fire was discovered shortly after 11 p. m. by Mrs. Newman who was sitting with her husband and some guests in the house watching television.

When discovered the fire was shooting out the roof of the larger and older of the two barns.

A hurried call was put into Rutland fire headquarters, but hampered by the lack of water firemen were forced to stand almost helplessly by as the raging flames spread from first one building to another in a semi-circle north of the main house.

As the roofs of the barns and garages collapsed clouds of sparks showered high into the air overspreading the entire neighborhood. No other smaller fires were started, however.

From the main barn the flames spread first to a single car garage and then to an adjoining three-car garage.

On the western end the fire spread to another large and newer barn, which Newman said had been built only two years ago.

The two bulls were in the main barn and a new tractor was on the lower level.

The other animals destroyed were in the newer of the two barns, which formed an angle around the farmhand's home and the chicken house, both of which were badly scorched.

The remainder of the Newman herd was saved only because they were out in a nearby night pasture.

Newman's personal automobile, two trucks and some small pieces of farm equipment were rescued.

John Woljick, his wife and small daughter, were asleep in the cottage when the fire was discovered.

Anticipating firemen would not be able to save the cottage, persons attracted to the scene by the glow in the sky removed personal effects and furniture.

The north side of the main house was badly scorched by the heat from the blaze and clothing and some furniture was removed from this house.

It was not until the roof and the sidewalls of the newer barn, the last to go in the blaze, fell that Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski was able to declare the department would be able to save the cottage and chicken house. Firemen remained at the scene until 2 a. m. today.

So hot was the fire firemen were forced to take turns running into the barnyard with the hose to wet down the backs of the two buildings.

Earlier last night firemen were summoned to the Champlain Valley Fruit Co. when fire broke out in a railroad box car on the company's siding.

When discovered the flames were so hot they had melted out two windows on the second floor of the large brick warehouse off West St.

The blaze, cause of which is undetermined, was quickly knocked down with a water line. Firemen said the car was partly filled with hay left after watermelons had been unloaded.

## Fire Engine In Accident While Answering Call

City fire engine No. 3 was damaged slightly in a traffic accident at West and Pine streets at 9:40 a. m. yesterday while firemen were answering a call caused by an overheated stove at the residence of Mrs. Henry King of 267 West street.

There was no fire damage, city firemen said.

The engine, driven by Fireman Patrick J. Hurley, 38, was going west on West street when it was in collision with a car driven by Raymond W. Emrick, 32, of 130 River street, who was northbound on Pine street.

Only the left toolbox on the rear of the fire truck and the left front fender and headlight of Emrick's car were damaged, according to city police.

A car and a taxi were damaged slightly in another mishap at the same corner at 7:45 a. m. yesterday.

The taxi, owned by Cormier's Taxi service, was driven by Alfeo J. Barbagallo, 51, of 43 Union street, who was going north on Pine street. Gordon C. Holden, 19, of Wallingford, was driving west on West street when the two vehicles collided at the intersection.

### RUBBISH FIRE IN CELLAR DOES NO DAMAGE

City firemen reported no damage resulted from a rubbish fire in the cellar of the residence of T. O. Meyers of 62 Cleveland avenue at 3:36 p. m. yesterday. The building is owned by Miss Mary V. Quigley, 88 Center street.

## Grass Fires Keep Firemen On The Run

Rutland firemen had a busy day Saturday answering 17 calls all but one of which were for grass fires.

The first call came at 7:19 a. m. and was for trouble with an oil burner at 78 Traverse place.

Grass fire calls answered were: 10:41 a. m., 41 East street; 10:45 a. m., 566 Stratton road; 10:54 a. m., 50 Baxter street; 11:44 a. m., 4 Dorr drive; 12:40 p. m., 6 Jackson avenue; 1:22 p. m., 441 West street; 1:34 p. m., Stratton road and Killington avenue; 1:45 p. m., 45 Park street; 3:32 p. m., 28 Stratton road; 4:21 p. m., 118 Forest street; 4:52 p. m., 116 Stratton road; 5:26 p. m., Park street; 5:33 p. m., Rutland Country club; 7:14 p. m., 31 North Main street; 7:55 p. m., 69 East Washington street and 8:30 p. m., Fairview avenue.

Two calls were answered yesterday. The first at 10:26 a. m. was for a grass fire at Gleason road and the second received at 11:03 a. m. was caused by a short circuit in the sprinkler alarm at the Champlain Valley Fruit company warehouse.

MARCH 3, 1952.

## Proctor Road Home Guttled

Owners Praise Rutland Firemen for Saving Building; Three Rooms Damaged.

Fire, caused by a defective chimney, yesterday morning charred the roof, walls and ceilings of three rooms of the David Dickinson, jr., residence on East Proctor road.

Damage was extensive, according to Dickinson and Rutland City firemen.

Dickinson, who said last night the seven-room frame building was insured, praised Rutland City firemen for their efficiency and speed in saving the house. The blaze, mostly confined to wall partitions, mushroomed into the attic, damaging the roof, according to firemen who returned to the station at 4:21 a. m.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson were home about 9:56 a. m. when Mrs. Dickinson saw smoke coming from the chimney into the two-story home. Neighbors who brought water to the scene in milk cans helped carry out furniture until assured by the fire department that the fire was under control, Dickinson said.

Dickinson last night had not set a monetary value on the damage.

MARCH 27, 1952.

## Greenhouse Is Damaged

Fire Loss at Cioffi Building on Granger Street Estimated at \$1500.

Fire which started near the heating plant of Frank Cioffi's greenhouse at 72 Granger street caused \$1500 damage to the office and one end of the greenhouse last night.

Thick smoke pouring from the windows of the office and greenhouse situated in back of the Cioffi home hampered firemen on arrival. The flames, which spread from the basement section to every partition in the building, resisted firemen's efforts for over half an hour before they were brought under control.

Members of the family said seeds and young plants were destroyed by fire and water, as well as the system for heating the glass-enclosed portions of the greenhouse.

Firemen also answered a call to put out a grass fire at 29 Howard avenue at 6 p. m. yesterday.





Herald Photos—Merusi.

Wrapped in a blanket, Mrs. Edward B. Jenney, who suffered burns about the face, arms and shoulders in a before dawn fire in her Washington street home yesterday, is carried from her home by firemen and policemen. She was taken to Rutland hospital for treatment of second degree burns.



Two firemen begin work of covering valuables in the Jenney home for protection from water. At left is Dr. Jenney. Mrs. Thomas Quigley, the Jenneys' daughter, also suffered burns. Mrs. Quigley's daughter, Dorothy, 4, was unhurt.

## Mrs. Jenney. Hurt in Fire

Housewife Suffers Second Degree Burns During Early Morning Blaze in Home.

Mrs. Edward B. Jenney was hospitalized with burns on the face, arms and shoulders, and three other members of the family escaped serious injury when a fire of unknown origin broke out in a bedroom of the Jenney house at 11 Washington street early yesterday.

Mrs. Jenney was treated at Rutland hospital for second degree burns by Dr. W. J. Powers. Dr. Powers said she was in "fairly serious but not critical condition." She also suffered from smoke inhalation, the doctor said.

Mrs. Thomas Quigley, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Jenney, also suffered burns on her face and hand. She was treated by Dr. Thomas Keenan. Dr. Jenney and Mrs. Quigley's four-year-old daughter, Dorothy, were unhurt.

The four were occupying bedrooms on the second floor of the house when the fire began, probably around 3:50 a. m., in a southwest room used as a bedroom for the child. Firemen said it looked as though she was not in the room when the fire broke out.

The central fire station first received the alarm at 3:57 a. m. When they arrived at the scene smoke was so thick in the house that an alarm was rung in on the fire whistle system.

They found the bed in the top floor southwest bedroom on fire, as well as a wicker chair close by. Intense heat and smoke blistered and blackened the walls, but no other fire was found.

Mrs. Jenney was found crouched at the top of the stairs. She evidently rushed to search the burning bed under the impression that her granddaughter was still there. Firemen surmised that it was at this time she suffered the burns and smoke inhalation. Mrs. Quigley was burned at about the same time, when she went to help her mother.

The burning bed and chair were thrown out the window to the front lawn. Firemen opened or battered apart other windows in the upstairs section to allow ventilation. A fan was set up in one window to speed the action and smoke was soon cleared from the house.

The entire second floor sustained heavy smoke damage. The rooms were re-decorated last summer. There was no figure set on the amount of damage, however.

The fire attracted much attention. Police were called upon to direct a stream of cars away from the scene.

### CHIMNEY FIRE ON MAPLE STREET DOES NO DAMAGE.

A chimney fire at 143 Maple street brought firemen out at 8:45 a. m. yesterday. The house, occupied by Mrs. Mary Kieley, was not damaged, firemen said. The blaze was put out before it could spread.

AUGUST 28, 1952.

## Part of Room Is Scorched

Portable Gas Boiler Being Used to Steam Wallpaper Cause of Fire at Dr. Stickney Home.

A portable gas boiler for steaming wallpaper was the cause of a fire in the house of Dr. J. Carlton Stickney, 108 Grove street, yesterday morning which destroyed a bureau full of clothes and scorched the ceiling and floor of one upstairs room.

Dr. Stickney, redecorating an upstairs room, was using the steamer shortly before 7 a. m. yesterday to take down old wallpaper.

The boiler evidently got too close to a dresser in the room and set it afire, firemen said.

Dr. Stickney said he used two fire extinguishers on the blaze before firemen arrived.

The flames from the bureau charred the floor underneath and a section of the ceiling overhead. Firemen with a booster hose put the fire out within a few minutes, they said.

The whole upper floor sustained a good deal of smoke damage.

The bureau and clothes stored inside it, were destroyed.

There was no personal injury, firemen said.

9/19/52

## Wife Burned, Mate Held

Mrs. Edwin Blood Treated at Hospital Following Early Morning Fire in Bed.

A Rutland woman received burns and her husband was arrested on a warrant charging him with intoxication when fire broke out in their bed early yesterday.

Mrs. Edwin Blood, 24, of 45 Pleasant street was treated at Rutland hospital after fire broke out in a bed at the apartment occupied by Mrs. Blood and her husband at 3:58 a. m.

She was treated for burns by Dr. Gordon Smith, and later released.

Her husband, an Army veteran, was being held last night in Rutland County jail, on a police warrant charging him with intoxication.

Firemen called to the fire, located in an upstairs front room, found the mattress and bedding smoldering, and also a fire in a closet-lavatory, where some of the burning material was evidently taken in an endeavor to extinguish it, they said.

Most of the fire was out when firemen arrived, but they reported the apartment full of smoke. A booster hose was used on the burning bedding, after it was carried outside.

Cause of the fire was not known by firemen.



## Blast Turns Living Room Into Shambles



Herald Photo—Merust.

Concussion from explosion of leaking gas ripped up ceiling in the home of Mrs. John Stevens at 31 West street yesterday, causing one section of it to sag within three feet of the floor. Injured were Mrs. Stevens, who was burned about the arms, and a four-month-old baby. The living room floor was littered with broken furniture, plaster and glass. (Other pictures Page 3.)

# Baby Burned as Blast Rips West Street Home

## Six Other Persons Escape Serious Injury; Glass Blown Into Street.

A four-month-old baby was badly burned but six other people escaped serious injury in an explosion yesterday which ripped a house at 31 West street, collapsing floors and walls, overturning furniture and blasting window glass into the street.

Firemen said the explosion occurred about 6 p. m. when gas leaking from a connecting pipe was ignited somehow.

Mrs. John Stevens, who with her family occupies one section of the house, was burned on the arms as she rushed to beat out the flaming clothes of the baby, Marcia Ann. The baby suffered second degree burns on the face and upper body. She is in Rutland hospital where Mrs. Sophie Davidson identified herself to hospital authorities as the mother of the child.

The explosion blew out one side section of the house wall, collapsed the floor in one room of the house, knocked the legs out from underneath beds and chairs and blasted glass from the windows into West street.

## Minor Damage Caused By Smudge at Hospital

Only minor damage was caused to the laundry at Rutland hospital early today when smoke from the overheated east wall filtered through the place and the help's quarters upstairs.

Firemen, who responded to an alarm at 12:22 a. m., said they believed the wall became overheated as a result of use of an incinerator during the evening.

All available apparatus responded and after wetting down the hot wall firemen assisted in clearing smoke from the building.

Most of the laundry was removed from the building by nurses and other hospital help when the smoke was first discovered.

## Two Buildings Threatened By Rubbish Fires

Burning piles of rubbish threatened buildings in two sections of the city yesterday, but firemen reached the scene in both cases before damage became serious.

Rubbish in a basket on the back porch of the house of Patrick Stapleton, 38 East Center street, was ignited at 12:48 p. m. Engines 2, 3, and 4 answered the alarm and used a booster line to squelch the flame. Clapboard siding on the porch was scorched, firemen said.

Paint was blistered slightly on the rear side of the Tydol gasoline station at North Main street and North street extension when a rubbish pile fire got out of control at 12:52 p. m. No further damage was reported to the station, operated by Randall Durkee.

The fire department also answered calls to grass fires at 118 Granger street, 135 Pearl street and St. Peter's field.

A grass fire outside the city limits, technically beyond the jurisdiction of city firemen, was answered when the residence of Clarence E. Oakman of upper Woodstock avenue was threatened by flames.

Mrs. Stevens said flames came boiling up the cellar stairs following the blast. The baby's carriage just at the head of the stairs was tumbled end over end by the explosion and the heat ignited the baby clothes. Mrs. Stevens rushed to beat out the fire, suffering second and third degree burns on the arms and singed hair and eyebrows.

Mrs. Stevens' daughter, Barbara, 16, was in the upstairs front corner room when the explosion knocked one side of the floor loose from the wall and tipped bed, dresser and chairs down toward the floor below.

She fled safely into the street.

Other members of the family in the house at the time, all of whom escaped with nothing more than a bad fright, were Mrs. Stevens' daughter, Judy, 13, and Mrs. Cathleen Merrill, together with Mrs. Merrill's four-year-old son, Danny. Also in the house was a friend, Donald Pratt, 18.

Dennis Noonan, owner of the house, was not present at the time of the explosion. An ell section was apparently undamaged, although the occupants, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McFarren, their daughter, Mrs. Irene Renner, were shaken by the blast.

Damage was almost entirely due to the blast, rather than to flames. When firemen arrived fire was spouting from the basement well where the gas-pipe entered, but little flame was evident elsewhere. The house was full of dust and smoke.

There was soapy dishwater in the kitchen sink and the drainboard was full of glassware covered with a film of plaster. Not a dish in the lot was broken.

Mrs. Stevens, who with her daughter, Barbara, works as a maid in the Berwick hotel, said the family was in the process of moving to Clarendon. They would have been out of the house by today, she said.

Her husband, a pulp truck driver, was out on a trip, unaware last night of what had happened.

Mrs. Renner said she was standing in the McFarren's kitchen, when the blast shook the whole building.

The explosion blew out almost all the windows in the main section of the house. Curtains hung outside the gaping frames, testimony to the force of the blast. Pieces of glass were picked up from as far away as Lincoln avenue, 70 feet distant.

Neighbors said the sound had the noise of "something falling." It was heard by people within a block around the scene.

The baby and Mrs. Stevens were taken to the nearby office of Dr. Victor J. Pisanelli, who immediately ordered the baby rushed to the hospital. Mrs. Stevens was treated at the doctor's office.

Gas around the leak at the cellar wall flamed like a torch for nearly an hour after the explosion, as firemen stood by with booster lines to keep the floor above from igniting.

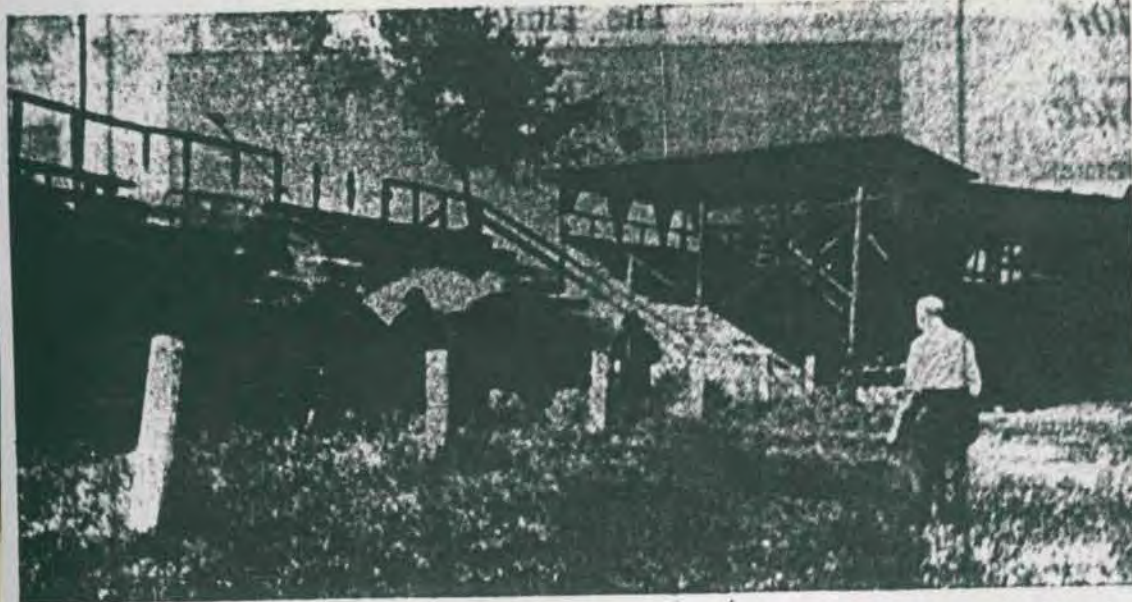
Workers finally dug outside the building to shut off the gas.

In the ground floor of the house personal belongings were strewn about. The Stevens' belongings had mostly been removed from the upstairs section, except for a bed, a dresser and a few chairs in the room from which Barbara escaped. The floor of that room sagged at one corner until it came to rest on the radiator in the room below.

The accident occurred just at the supper hour for many householders in the city, who poured out, young and old, to the scene.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said last night that he was calling in officials from the state fire marshal's office to make an investigation of the cause of the explosion. The investigation will begin sometime today, he said.





Smoke rises from section of St. Peter's field bleachers damaged by fire which spread from a grass blaze. The fire broke out nearly two hours before a doubleheader exhibition baseball game between Rutland Junior Legion and Pittsfield, Mass., teams.

## Bleachers At Ball Field Burn

Chief Koltonski Says Grass Blaze Spread to St. Peter's Field Wooden Seats.

A grass fire west of St. Peter's field was the cause of a blaze which crackled through 100 feet of bleachers Saturday afternoon, fire officials said yesterday.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said the absence of wind Saturday probably helped keep the fire from causing greater damage.

Firemen, called at 2:43 p. m., concentrated streams of water on the west end of the grandstand to keep it from bursting into flames.

They were hampered somewhat by a wire grill-work in back of the bleachers, erected to keep people from sneaking under the seats from outside.

Hose lines were laid from a hydrant on River street. The fire was doused in a little over an hour. The grass fire itself was doused as it threatened to spread to the dry sedge and grass west of the playing field toward Otter creek. The fire started just before the Rutland Junior Legion doubleheader was scheduled to start. The games were played.

Chief Koltonski said the burned bleachers were injured. He could not say how much the bleacher-loss would cost. The burned section was almost a total loss. The burned bleachers were owned by St. Peter's parish.

## Fire Causes \$70,000 Loss

Flames Level Mendon Barn in Which Furnace, Oil Heater Equipment Is Stored.

Fire raged through an estimated \$70,000 worth of furnace and oil heater equipment as it completely destroyed a barn Saturday at the home of Timothy Murphy of Town Line road in Mendon.

Firemen, hampered by lack of water, managed to save the Murphy's near-by house with the contents of a booster tank. They said there was not enough water available for hoses to use on the dry barn.

The equipment was the property of the Holland Furnace company of 78 Strongs avenue, of which Murphy is manager.

Floyd Weed, Murphy's father-in-law, noticed the fire about 2 p. m. Murphy was away at the time. Firemen received Weed's call shortly after 2.

They said when they arrived the fire was already beyond control.

Murphy said the furnace equipment, to be used in coal-burning furnaces, was not insured. The barn was insured for \$5000, he said.

Cause of the fire was undetermined. Murphy said possible faulty wiring could be a reason. He said there was little inflammable material in the barn, except some old hay chaff on the floor.

## Steam Pipe Is Blamed for Fire At Grover Home

Flooring set afire by heat from a steam pipe was the firemen's reason for a blaze at the home of A. C. Grover at 55 Evergreen avenue early yesterday which burned up a section of partition and filled the house with smoke.

The fire started, firemen said, at a point where a steam pipe passes from the cellar to the first floor of the house. Firemen arrived about 1:30 a. m.

Over a period of years, they said, a steam pipe's heat will reduce the wood touching it to the point where it catches fire. The process of oxidation goes on in the same manner, although much more slowly, as when a hot ember is pressed against the wood.

Yesterday's fire burned a strip about 15 inches wide between two joists from floor to ceiling of a first-floor room. Firemen used two booster hoses on the flames and smoke ejectors to clear the house of smoke.

## Scenes From West Street Gas Explosion



Section of Mrs. John Stevens' apartment at 31 West street torn open by yesterday's explosion caused when leaking gas became ignited. The hole was nearly large enough for a man to pass through.

## Children Lectured After Fire Spreads to Garage

A fire set by children playing with matches, according to firemen, was responsible for a blaze in a pile of leaves at 26 Burnham avenue yesterday at 4:30 p. m. which scorched the back end of a garage.

Firemen said two young people were lectured by authorities for their carelessness. Owner of the garage was Miss Marion L. Ward. There was small damage to the outside of the building, they reported.

Today's  
Weather  
Forecast



FAIR

Saturday's Temperatures

	Nov. 15	Year Ago
High	57	60
Low	26	47

Weather conditions: Cloudy.



# \$75,000 Fire Guts Hale Block

## Firemen Battle Blaze 8 Hours; 26 Are Homeless

Three Persons Injured Slightly as Slow Moving But Blistering Hot Fire Spreads Throughout 70-Year-Old Frame Building; Wholesale Produce, Beauty Shop Supply Firm, Grocery Store Hard Hit.

### Origin Is Undetermined

A \$75,000 eight-hour fire left the Hale Block at 17-23 Wales St. a roofless blackened wreck yesterday, drove more than a score of persons into the streets and destroyed the stock of a grocery store, a wholesale produce company and a beauty shop supply firm.

Three people were hurt slightly in the fire and a young girl occupant of an upstairs apartment was snatched to safety by an alert Rutland police officer who aroused residents to the danger.

(Additional stories and pictures will be found on Pages 8 and 9.)



Smoke pours from the two upper stories of the four-story Hale Block on Wales St., as firemen yesterday fought valiantly but without success to keep flames from later breaking through the roof and walls. The fire was believed to have started in the below-street-level quarters (lower left) occupied by the Pico Produce Company. Several families fled without any belongings.

The slow-moving but blistering hot fire of undetermined origin broke out in the rear of the basement of the four-story building about 2:15 p. m., nearly trapping three men working in that part of the building.

The blaze roared up an inside central partition and mushroomed into the dry attic amid dense clouds of smoke.

Baffled firemen groped through the gloomy interior of the 70-year-old structure in search of the fire before they were forced back by the thick swirling smoke. It was three hours before they were able to get inside again.

More than an hour after the first alarm was turned in flames flared out on the roof and the whole top of the structure collapsed slowly into the blazing interior.

Firemen, slipping and sliding on the icy streets outside in below-freezing temperatures, poured tons of water into the building.

Put out of business temporarily were the H. A. Goyette Beauty Parlor Supply company; the Pico Produce company, wholesalers; with an estimated damage "near \$15,000," and the grocery store of Pasquale Patorti, who said \$12,000 worth of his stock was gone.

All four outer walls of the wooden building were lined almost to the top with a layer of brick, firemen said. This acted to keep the fire inside, and lessened the danger of it spreading to nearby buildings.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltowski said the structure was insured for about \$26,000.



The block has been the subject of many discussions of condemnation proceedings in the past. Chief Koltonski said the owner, E. C. Goodrich, was told last August the building must be made more fire-proof or be torn down. Koltonski said the deadline was Jan. 1, 1953, after which his department and the state fire marshal's office planned to take steps to condemn it.

Joseph Moscatiello of Union St., proprietor of the Pico Produce Company, located in the cellar of the building, was at work there with two helpers, Richard Clifford of Rutland and Malcolm Washburn of East Pittsford, when the fire broke out nearly trapping them.

The three said they were in a cooling room filled with bananas shortly before the fire started. Only minutes before the fire Francis A. Ryan, a Rutland City policeman, had visited them on his regular

beat. There was no sign of fire at the time, Officer Ryan said.

The lights in the banana room suddenly went out, Moscatiello said. He and his helpers opened the door of the room and were scared by heat and flame.

They flung themselves headlong through the Willow St. entrance to the basement and sprawled into the open air with scorched hands and faces and singed hair.

At almost the same time Pasquale Patortl, owner of a store on the first floor of the building, noticed smoke pouring through cracks in the floor.

Police Officers Charles E. Spoon and Dennis Noonan were in the street in front of the building investigating a minor car accident at the time the fire broke out.

While Officer Noonan raced to turn in the alarm, Spoon headed upstairs to warn the occupants. He said he got as far as the second story before smoke blinded him.

Many of the 26 occupants of the upper stories were out of the building at the time. Those who were inside, including several small children and two elderly women, hurried to safety without having time to save their belongings.

Officer Spoon said he picked up a tot on the stairs of the second floor who was too frightened to move and rushed her outside.

Mrs. Nora E. White, an elderly woman living on the top floor, came to safety without even her shoes. She was watching the fire-fighting activities later in her bedroom slippers.

As the fire spread, cars parked in the streets and parking lots around the building were pushed out of danger from falling sections of the house and out of the way of the firemen.

A temporary home for those turned out by the blaze was provided by William I. Ginsburg at the Hotel Bardwell Annex.

Made homeless by the fire were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mott and children, Barbara, Richard and Robert; Norman Davis; a Mrs. Crosby; Ellen Peck; Robert Sherwood and sons, Robert, Conrad and Raymond; Mr. and Mrs. Orin Miles; Willard Fairchild and children, Willard and Thomas; Mrs. Lena Aldrich and children, Edward Smith and Dora Jean Aldrich; Mr. and Mrs. John Mitchell and son, Ronald; James McGuirk; Pasquale Patortl; Benjamin Snyder, and Mrs. Nora White. Children huddled coatless in the street shivering in the sub-freezing

temperature before they were shepherded away to temporary shelter in Dunn's alleys.

John Brislin of the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation gas works said he was able to turn off the gas outlet in the basement of the building about 3:30 p. m.

Hundreds of onlookers gathered to watch the fire take over the building. In order to keep the crowd from pressing too close, police strung ropes across the road and sidewalks on Wales St.

Wales St. from Center St. to West St. was closed to through traffic and Willow St. were still closed to traffic this morning.

The multitude of partitions in the building hampered the efforts of firemen to fight the blaze from the outside. But by 5 p. m. Chief Koltonski said "It won't get any worse."

It was not until after 10 p. m., however that the Chief made a final round of inspection through the ruins by flashlight and told his men to get ready to go home.

He said some of the furniture in the upper front rooms was hardly touched by flame, although badly water-soaked.

As soon as the firemen saw the blaze was extensive Chief Koltonski sent in an order for a whistle alarm calling all special and off-duty firemen to the scene.

The Proctor fire department was also asked to help. The department sent one truck to aid the fight.

A canteen operated by A. W. Macauley and the Red Cross to provide firemen with hot coffee and food was set up in the Dunn bowling alley across the street from the burning building.

A source of worry after the fire got under way was a gasoline pump standing over a 300-gallon gasoline tank.

However, firemen said they shut the pump off from the buried tank in time to prevent an explosion.

A heavy smoke pall settled over separate sections of the city as the wind shifted during the fire.

The thick, choking smoke drove spectators back further and further until fire lines were finally established well out of range of the blaze.

The steady building up of the blaze within the structure was not apparent at first. It was over an hour after the fire started before flames were visible in any quantity. The roof caved in at 3:30 p. m. even as firemen continued to pour water onto the building.

The force of the hoses tore out chunks of the building periodically, sending them winging into the streets.

Chief Koltonski said it was impossible to lay a ladder against the building to get above the fire. Fear that the walls would crumble under the weight prevented use of the ladders. The same fear that falling roof particles and collapsing floors would trap firemen also prompted the chief to keep his men from inside the building.

The dark, menacing smoke was made even darker on several occasions when oil barrels, probably connected to home heaters, went up with muffled thuds. One in particular sent a high column of black smoke towering above the building.

The frustrating forward drive of hidden flames blocked firefighters at every turn. Koltonski said it was practically impossible to place an effective stream on the fire. The blaze worked its way upward inside partitions and in one red hot area at almost the exact center of the building. When it broke through at last, the heat it generated could

be felt as far away as the West St. intersection.

As night fell, the scene turned in to an eerie sight. Firemen hoisted big spotlights into place to bathe the area in brightness. Water began to turn into ice on telephone and power lines, hoses, building sides and on the streets.

Koltonski said there were 12 streams of water pouring on the fire at its height.

Included in this number were three "deluge" nozzles spraying the building from a set-in-place rack.

There were 4000 feet of hose line used at the fire, the chief said.

By late last night the building was at last quiet except for dripping water. Two police officers were stationed to watch over the jumbled smoke-filled rooms and soaked merchandise until today.

Patortl, owner of the grocery store in the building, began picking up stray pieces of his merchandise from the street and carrying it inside.

"You know," he said, "I've been dreaming about fire for the last two nights. Last night I dreamed I couldn't put it out."

Firemen returned to the building shortly before midnight to quench a new but small outbreak and indicated the building might have to be wet down again this morning.



A stream of water from a nozzle attached to the Rutland Fire Department's extension ladder played on the rear of the burning Hale Block as clouds of smoke billow from the structure. Spectators are in the foreground. Picture taken from Willow St.

## Red Cross To Aid Victims Of Hale Block Fire

Earl S. Wright, chairman of Rutland County Chapter, American Red Cross, has announced the chapter stands prepared to assume its disaster responsibilities arising from the Hale block fire in accordance with the basic policies and practices under which the Red Cross operates.

Wright reminded victims Red Cross headquarters are at 37½ Merchants Row, telephone 747-W.

In the absence of Joseph Brislin, chapter disaster chairman, Mrs. Gladys Capron, home service secretary, checked yesterday afternoon to see that all victims of the fire had accommodations for the night.



## Small Dramas Unfold as Fire Guts Building

An elderly occupant stood coatless outside the smoldering block just after the fire was discovered. Shivering in the 26-degree cold, she looked longingly up the stairs leading to her apartment. "I'd like to go back and get my coat," she said in a numbed monotone. "I'd like to go back and get my coat."

Cars parked near the building were driven away by their owners as the fire threatened to burst out the rear of the building. An employee of Cartmell's Sales and Service wheeled a truck containing several tanks of gas away from the fire scene a few moments before flames burst from the rear of the structure.

Hundreds of spectators lined streets intersecting the fire area. Probably the best spot on West St. was the entrance to the Trinity Episcopal Church, where fire viewers were able to get a good glimpse of the fire without being enveloped in smoke at bothersome intervals. Another good spot for spectators was the east side of the Federal building.

A hose-ladder used by the firemen at the rear of the structure tore, a large hole in the building near the roof, permitting firemen to send water cascading through the interior. The power of the device nearly knocked the rear wall of the building down as firemen rocked it back and forth, sending clapboards flying off the building.

Small fry, attracted by the fire, watched the work of firemen with a mixture of awe at firefighting efforts, while they were also hopeful the blaze would spring out to cover the structure with flames. They were quick to express delight when the fire crackled out from the edges of the roof despite the tons of water poured on it.

Firemen used a Civil Air Patrol emergency power generator to provide power for their equipment. The generator was mounted on a trailer and was placed at headquarters for just such emergencies, according to Lt. Col. Walter D. Griffin, project officer of the Vermont Wing of the CAP. Griffin recently placed a smaller generator in police headquarters.

Adjacent buildings were not threatened by the blaze due to the fact the fire did not really blossom out on the exterior of the building.

Willow St. was littered with debris last night after the fire had been conquered. Clapboards, heavy timbers and oil drums lay along the street. In addition, a thick coating of ice spread glass-like around the entire fire area. Firemen and police slipped and skidded on the icy surface as they made watch tours of the area.

An occupant of the building returned from his work in Springfield last night, glanced at the gutted structure and asked where his family was. Officials told him his family was at the Hotel Bardwell Annex. Reassured, the man left the fire scene.

Herald reporters covering the fire found it an easy job to make periodic checks on new outbreaks after darkness fell. They simply looked out the windows of the newsroom.

## Proctor Firemen Fight Blaze



Proctor firemen play water on the Hale Block fire after being summoned here as a precaution in case the towering walls of the wooden business block should collapse outward.

Herald Photos—Merusi.



Mrs. Helmer Hood, canteen director of the American Red Cross, who set up headquarters in the Dunn Bowling Alleys building, and Albert W. Macauley, managing director of Prouse's Restaurant who supplied large quantities of coffee and foodstuffs, are shown serving cold and water-soaked Rutland firemen.

Dunn's Bowling Alleys across the street from the Hale Block closed up shop for the night, transforming the establishment into a Red Cross center for dispensing hot lunches and soup to firemen, police officers and helpers.

Police lines holding back the crowds fell back gradually until barricades were finally established at the corners of Wales and West and Center Sts.

There was an element of beauty in the thick billowing smoke as it curled in fluffy masses from all sides of the building. Only hold-back to enjoying the artistic part of the show was the realization of how deadly the acrid smoke could be.

The adjacent Herald building got a wash down on its north side during the fire. One hose crew sent a solid, heavy stream through a back window of the Hale Block. The stream carried across the inside of the burning building, out a window on the south wall and smack into the north wall of The Herald. It sprinkled several Herald employees viewing the blaze from the roof.

Albert MacAuley, proprietor of Prouse's restaurant, appeared just as darkness fell with hot coffee and sandwiches for the firemen. He set up shop on the sidewalk across the street from the burning building where Mrs. Helmer J. Hood dispensed the coffee to chilled smoke-eaters.

The nickname "smoke-eaters" took on new meaning yesterday for some of Rutland's firemen. Several got more than their share of quick trips inside the building during the early moments of the blaze. One fireman was made sick to his stomach by the smoke. He was back on the job soon afterward, however.

Fire Chief Charles Styles of Fair Haven, en route through the city, joined the spectators. He said he could see the billowing smoke from atop Mendon mountain as he approached Rutland.

For a time it was feared Mrs. Nora White, a tenant for nine years, was lost in the fire. She was located by a reporter resting in an upstairs room at nearby 8 Wales St. where she sat calmly in slippers relating how she fled the building so fast there was no time to put on shoes.

Benjamin Snyder, a roomer, got a rude shock when he returned to Rutland last night from his job in a Danby marble quarry. He rounded Wales St. to learn the fire had destroyed all his personal property. His major concern was over a bank-book lost in the blaze. He felt better when informed his bank would have a duplicate record.

The Wonder Store on Center St. threw open its doors to the unfortunate fire victims last night, offering to outfit all who lost clothes in the blaze. William I. Ginsburg, Rutland merchant, also made provisions to put up any without lodging in the Bardwell annex.

First Assistant Fire Chief Ralph Bean sorta lost his head—or part of it at least—during the fire. He tossed his dress shoes and soft hat into The Herald hallway for safe keeping as he donned working clothes to fight the blaze. He found the shoes when he returned about seven hours later, but the hat is still missing.

Police Officer Charles E. Spoon is a hero to an unidentified young girl who probably owes her life to the patrolman. Officer Spoon, first into the burning building, spotted the youngster standing on the second floor hallway, apparently blinded by the smoke. He snatched her up and carried her to the street while the adults he had aroused with his police whistle fled to safety.

Orin Miles, a tenant, was prevented from entering the building by police to save his car battery. Officers and spectators helped him push his battery-less car away from the structure.

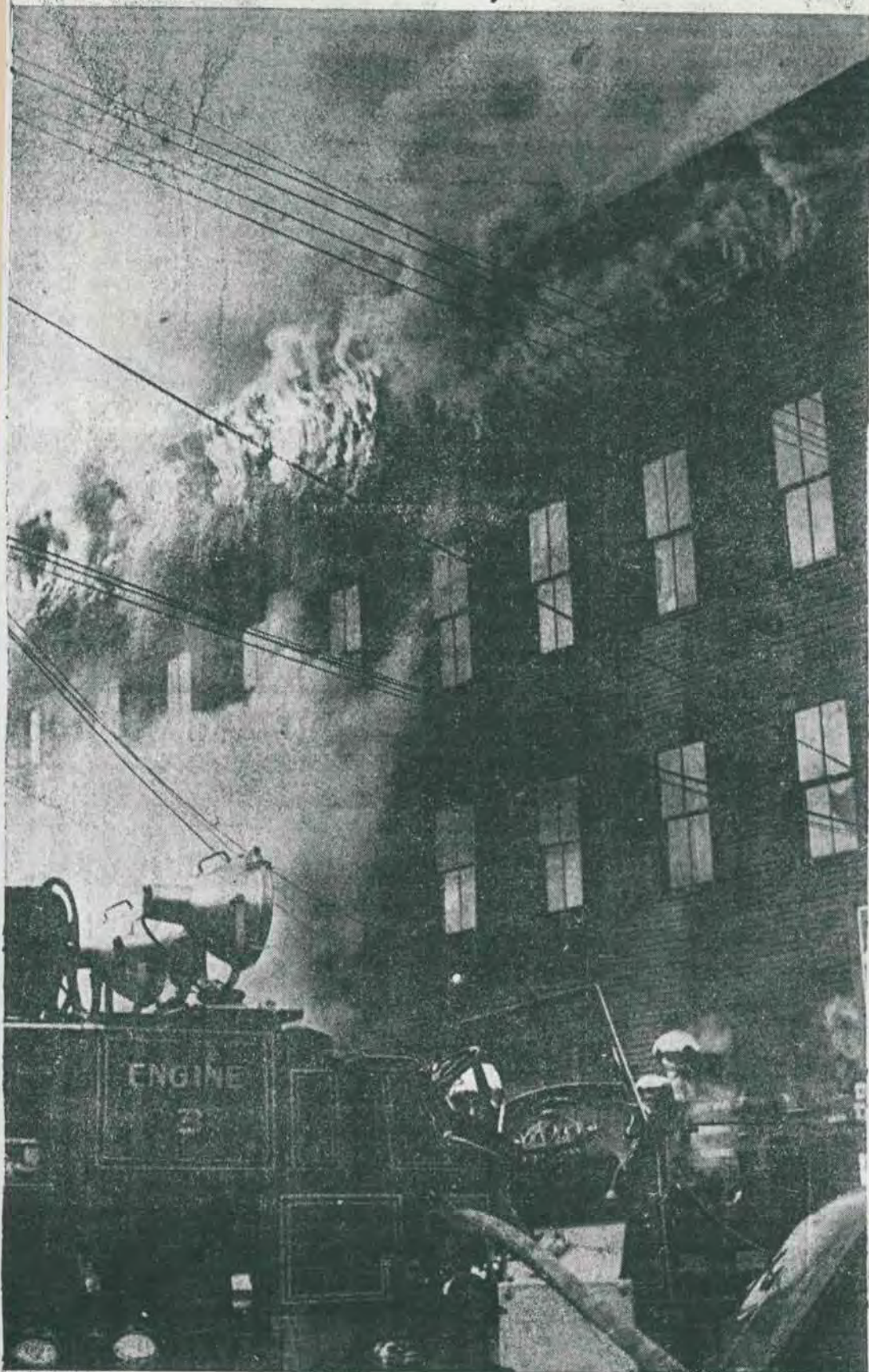
A "deluge nozzle" at the north side of the burning building got out of hand during the excitement yesterday and deluged the crowd of onlookers, who scattered in dismay.

Early in the fire, before flames spread to the front of the building, a fireman scaled the fire escape in front and began to kick in the second floor windows. Whereupon Chief Koltonski appeared from inside the building and pulled up the windows by hand.

William Grace, a UVM student who was a fireman last summer, dropped in for a visit to the station on his vacation just before 2 p. m. yesterday. At 6 p. m. he was still dragging hose around.



# Hungry Flames Eat Away Under Roof Eaves



Despite the tons of water poured from several lines of hose on the smoke-clogged Hale Business Block, flames late yesterday afternoon ate their way through the south side of the wooden structure as well as the roof and the other three sides.

Herald Photos—Merusi.

## Leaking Gas May Have Started Blaze

### Officials Open Probe of Business Block Fire as Salvage Work Begins.

Fire officials yesterday were exploring the possibility that leaking gas in the basement of the Hale Block at 17-23 Wales St. may have touched off the blaze which gutted the building Monday afternoon.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said definite cause was not yet determined of the sudden blaze which mushroomed through the 70-year-old structure, causing damage now estimated at somewhat over \$50,000 and leaving more than a score of persons homeless.

Koltonski, First Assistant Chief Ralph Bean and Inspector Charles Walker of the State Fire Marshal's office yesterday toured the sodden building which was still dripping from more than a million and a half gallons of water poured into it during the fire.

The blaze must have started with a flash, they said, reconstructing the event, and then travelled up drain pipes in a central position to the top floor and attic, where it mushroomed.

The task of salvaging material from the wrecked building, which Chief Koltonski said would soon be coming down, continued yesterday. Workers in the H. A. Goyette Beauty Supply store and Pasquale

Patortl's general store on the first floor, and the Pico Produce wholesale establishment in the basement began the weary task of sorting the damaged and undamaged goods. Clothing and furniture was salvaged from some rooms at the front of the second floor.

H. A. Goyette, whose property in the building was insured for \$5000, said cardboard cartons were damaged by water. He said equipment such as razors and other metal appliances could be salvaged.

He is moving the salvage to his home at 29 Nichols St., where he said the bulk of his supplies are already stored.

Patortl yesterday moved several truckloads of groceries to a house he leases at 8 Wales St.

He said yesterday he carried insurance of \$10,000 on his stock.

Patortl also set up living quarters at 8 Wales St. His former rooms in back of the store in the burned building were badly wrecked. He said he was not able to save much of his personal effects.

Joseph Moscatiello, owner of Pico Produce wholesale business in the basement where the fire started, said he carried \$10,000 insurance on the stock inside. He said he did not know how much could be salvaged.

A temporary place of business will be set up in a section of the Bove Distributors plant at 7 Pine St., Moscatiello said.

Moscatiello and two helpers, Richard Clifford of Rutland and Malcolm Washburn of East Pittsford, had a narrow escape Monday when they were nearly trapped inside the basement by the flash of flame.

They stumbled free with facial and hand burns. Moscatiello said yesterday he recalled falling once and being picked up by Clifford and pushed forward to the door.

The occupants of the upper stories were finding housing elsewhere, either with friends and relatives or with City Welfare, Rutland merchants and Red Cross aid. Four families are being cared for at the Hotel Bardwell Annex on Merchants Row.

Some of the occupants of the top story fled without a chance to save any personal belongings. Mrs. Nora White, who was wearing bedroom slippers when she escaped from the building, left for Albany to stay with her daughter.

The building itself was insured for about \$25,000, according to Chief Koltonski.

As soon as insurance adjusters complete their work and all the salvagable goods are taken from the stores, the shell of the structure should come down, Koltonski said.

Passage on Willow St. next to the building will not be safe until the building is down, he said.

The building has often been the subject of condemnation talks. Last August the owner, E. C. Goodrich, was told the place must be made more fireproof by the first of the coming year, Chief Koltonski said.

"We've been afraid of a bad fire, with loss of life, for almost 30 years at that building," Koltonski said yesterday.

"It's a lucky thing nobody was killed in the fire."

He reported firemen poured about 1,700,000 gallons of water during the eight-hour period at Monday's fire.

It was at the rate of almost 3000 gallons per minute.

The city reservoir, which could have been depleted badly if the fire had occurred in a dry period, showed little drop Monday, water officials said.

In order to maintain pressure in hoses during the fire, the use of appliances in adjacent buildings was cut to a minimum.

Chief Koltonski said he wished to express his thanks to the Proctor Fire Department for its aid during the emergency.

The telephone company said a lineman cut the wires to the burning building early in the fire Monday. They returned yesterday to restore service to the Johnson Service station at the corner of West and Wales Sts. It was the only phone outside the Hale Block affected by the cut, an official said.

The Central Vermont Public Service Corporation said a pole-climber clipped the eight wires to the burning building without disrupting service to the rest of the area.

Yesterday, as weary firemen stretched aching bones in the quiet of the Central Station, they reported two alarms brought a fire truck back to the Hale block during the day.

At 6:40 a. m. and 12 noon hot partitions in the block rekindled small flames which were quickly put out.



## Officials Study Hale Block Fire Cause



Herald Photos—Merusi.

Charles Walker (right) from the state fire marshal's office with Deputy Fire Chief Ralph Bean (left) and Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski examine fire ruins in the Hale Block for the origin of the more than \$50,000 blaze which gutted the three-story wooden structure on Wales St. here on Monday. The fire is now believed to have started from the explosion of leaking gasoline in the basement quarters occupied by the Pico Produce Company.



Patsy Patorti, retail and wholesale grocer who lost his entire stock in the fire, holds his hands out in dismay as he views the fire, smoke and water damage to his store.

## Serious Fire Is Averted

Firemen Halt Spread of Flames in Blazing Room of Pearl St. Home.

Rutland firemen Saturday averted a serious fire at the home of Louis A. Branchaud of 135 Pearl St. after an oil burner ignited an upstairs bedroom.

The south side of the room was aflame when the owner discovered the blaze, fire officials said.

Engines 1, 3 and 4 used boosters to extinguish the blaze. A smoke ejector was also brought into action to dispel the clouds of smoke which billowed through the upstairs portion of the two-story building.

The fire, described as a "flash fire," burned everything on the south side of the room and singed a bed and other furniture on the north side.

Engines 1 and 3 were summoned to the scene at 4:55 p. m. Engine 4 was called at 4:57 p. m.

Fire officials could not estimate the damage.

A short circuit in an electric stove at 34½ Summer St. brought firemen out Saturday at 3:20 p. m. They said smoke in the kitchen alarmed the tenant.

Engines 1 and 3 responded to the alarm. Firemen adjusted the wires. They said the smoke was caused by liquid falling on the broken wires of the unit.

Firemen were called to one grass fire yesterday and three grass blazes Saturday.

Yesterday's fire was at 64 Allen St. Firemen of Engine 4 went to the scene at 10:51 a. m. They used two pack pumps to put out the blaze.

Engine 4 answered Saturday's three grass alarms. The first call was on Mona Vista Ave. at 1:05 p. m.

The second call was to 360 West St. at 3:07 p. m.

A fire in Buffum's lot on S. Main St. brought firemen to that area at 4:07 p. m.

No damage was reported from the grass fires.

MORNING, DECEMBER 26, 1953.

## Firemen's Yule Log Reads Like Hectic Day in Early Spring

"Is it spring? Or is it Christmas?" firemen were asking yesterday as they chased eight grass fires in the city.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski termed it one of the busiest Christmases in the history of the department. He theorized burning papers, probably Christmas gift wrappings, caused most of the fires. No damage was reported.

The chief said the largest fire was at 186 Baxter St. yesterday at 11:45 a. m. Engine 4 responded to the call.

Engine 4 responded to a large number of fires, but other trucks were shunted to fire scenes when the harried fire-battlers of Engine 4 were not available.

The first call for the engine

was at 9:56 a. m. when fire broke out near 56 Engrem Ave.

An hour later the machine was called to 24 Ross St., returning at 11:15 a. m. to catch the Baxter St. call.

While Engine 4 was on that call, Engines 2 and 3 went to 84 Allen St. at 11:18 a. m. Both returned at 11:55 a. m.

Engine 4 went to 112 Crescent St. at 12:34, returning at 12:47 p. m. The engine was summoned again at 1:08 p. m. to Highland Ave. Ext. At 2:10 p. m. the truck went to 238 Lincoln Ave.

Thursday Engine 4 was summoned to fires at 116 S. Main St. at 1:10 p. m. and Park St. at 1:23 p. m. Both were grass fires. Engines 1 and 2 went to a grass fire Thursday at 6:05 a. m. at 15 Kendall Ave.



FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 24, 1953.

## Child Guards Home After Starting Fire

A 10-year-old girl who accidentally started a fire while playing alone at her house at 103 Dorr Dr. yesterday stood watch over her home until firemen arrived to put out the blaze.

The fire started in clothing hanging in the corner of a bedroom at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Brown. Firemen said they believed the fire was started when the Brown's daughter was playing with some matches near the clothes, shortly after 5 p. m.

When firemen arrived after a neighbor telephoned the alarm, they found the girl waiting for them outside the house.

The flames had raced up a partition and into an empty upstairs room of the unfinished house. Firemen hosed down the blaze with water from two booster lines.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said the flames burned through the partition downstairs and charred it upstairs, but added that the home was unfinished and the partition had not been plastered. The upstairs room where flames broke through momentarily was empty and also unfinished.

Principal damage to the property besides the partition was to the clothing.

The only other call of the day was for a chimney fire at the home of Mrs. Paul Eitapence, 9 Marble Ave., at 11:03 p. m. The chimney burned itself clean and the firemen's only task was to shovel out the burning soot from the fireplace.

TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 24, 1953.

## Fire Loss Is Set at \$6000

Restaurant Equipment, Other Furnishings Destroyed by Blaze That Gutted Barn.

An estimated \$5000 to \$6000 worth of restaurant equipment, furniture and interior furnishings was destroyed yesterday in a 6 a. m. blaze in a barn at 108 Wales St. that threatened two other buildings and left the barn a useless wreck.

A full crew of more than 30 firemen battled for two hours against the blaze in the old barn, which also contained about two tons of old newspapers, magazines and other papers, much of which was destroyed.

The fire was discovered by Milan B. Densmore of 72½ Park St., a taxi driver who was passing the barn about 6 a. m. Densmore said later: "There was so much smoke you could hardly see the barn." He drove directly to the fire station to give the alarm.

Engines 1 and 3 and the ladder truck answered the first alarm, and numbers 2 and 4 answered the box alarm, pulled a few minutes later.

Two 2½-inch hoses were immediately used, one being turned on the end of the wooden house next door at 102 Wales St., only four feet away at the nearest point, and the other on the barn. A booster line and later four 1½-inch hoses were also used.

The corner of the roof of the house at 108 Wales St., occupied by the Joseph Bousley family and others, caught fire momentarily during the blaze but was quickly extinguished. The cornice is about 15 feet from the barn.

The barn, owned by Mrs. Catherine S. Hitzel of 8 Woodstock Ave., contained restaurant equipment and furnishings valued at between \$4000 and \$5000, owned by Albert McCauley, owner of Prouse's restaurant, and chairs, mattresses, dishes, stoves and other material owned by Joseph Hamel, 11 Noyes Ave., and valued at about \$1000. Neither McCauley's nor Hamel's goods were insured, they said in giving their estimates of the total losses.

Clothes for Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bousley and their six children, hung on a brand-new clothesline next to the barn, were totally destroyed. Mrs. Bousley said she estimated the loss at more than \$150.

Fire burned through most of the second floor of the two-story building, and it crashed through onto the ground floor.

The blackened, hollow structure will have to be torn down, Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said.

McCauley said much of the equipment, which included a steam table, a dish-washing machine, tables, chairs, 18 cartons of glasses and restaurant booths, had already been sold and he was planning to move all of it out next week, either to the purchasers or to the basement of Prouse's restaurant.



Herald Photo—Merusi.  
More than \$5000 worth of restaurant equipment, furniture and interior furnishings was destroyed in this Wales St. barn fire at 6 a. m. yesterday.



Herald Photos—Merusi.  
Among fire victims were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mott and their children, photographed shortly after they reached the street from the smoke-filled building. In tears at left is Barbara Jean. Mott is holding his son, Robert Jr., and Mrs. Mott, their baby, Richard.



TUESDAY

MARCH 10, 1953.



Smoke rises from the windows and roof of the John Valente building on West St., occupied by the A. & P. Self Service Market and Rutland Bowling Alleys after Rutland firemen check flames which at one time shot like a blowtorch from the third story window. Freezing weather last night did not stop scores of persons from watching the firemen's quick efforts in curbing the fire.

Herald Photo—Merusi.

## Blaze Threatens West St. A&P Block; \$8000 Damage

### Fast Action by Firemen Prevents Spread of Fire That Started in Bowling Alleys.

A fire at the Rutland Bowling Alleys in the A&P block that sent flames shooting 2 feet out of windows on West St. and threatened the entire building as well as the nearby Universalist Church was throttled by Rutland firemen within a few minutes after it started at 6:20 p. m. yesterday.

Flames charred the entire upper front section of the building at 107 West St., burned chairs, the ceiling of the bowling alley on the second floor, and lumber in the closed-in loft, licked at the tarpaper roof and did an estimated total damage of \$7000-\$8000, according to Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski. Cause of the blaze was not determined.

### Short Circuit Causes Fire At Heel Factory

A short circuit in wiring was the apparent cause of a fire that burned into a partition wall in the Perfect Wood Heel Co. building in Center Rutland last night, but Rutland firemen extinguished the blaze before it did further damage.

Firemen, called at 8:26 p. m., sprayed water from two "booster" lines on the blaze and had it out in a few minutes after their arrival.

They said the only damage was to the partition wall, which stands between the dry kiln room and the boiler room. The dry kiln was in operation at the time. Firemen said they believed a wiring short circuit that grounded itself on sheet tin tacked against the wall started the trouble.

Damage was said to be "not more than \$50."

The fire was discovered about 6:20 p. m. by Raymond Guyette, 16, a pin-boy at the bowling alleys, who went to the small balcony above the alleys to get some pins. He discovered smoke and flames in the small room where the pin-grinding machine is located, and dashed down from the balcony to give the alarm to Larry Muzzi, proprietor of the alleys.

Muzzi telephoned the alarm at almost the same instant that First Assistant Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean, returning from supper at his home at 45 Evergreen Ave., noticed the smoke and flame and turned in a box alarm.

Bean said flames were shooting out of the balcony windows "like a blowtorch" when he arrived on the scene.

Engines 1, 2, 3 and the ladder truck answered the alarm. Engine 4 joined them a few minutes later. Firemen lugged three 2½ inch lines up the stairs of the building through heavy smoke and intense heat and within a few minutes had quelled the flames.

The fire in the loft, which was especially stubborn, was fought by pushing a hose up through a hatchway in the ceiling of the bowling alley. Assistant Chief Bean said "there was nothing in that loft to stop the flames from going from end to end."

The men who hauled the lines up the stairs "took a lot of punishment—it was no picnic," Chief Bean said.

Seventy-five feet of ladder were put up to reach the balcony windows but by the time the ladder was ready for fire-fighting use the hoses carried up the stairway of the building had done their work.

John Valente, owner of the building, declined to be specific about the damages last night but said damage to the building alone would certainly run into "several thousand" dollars.

Muzzi said he expected the damage would run somewhere above \$4000 to the alleys and equipment. He said up to 15 feet of each of the alleys were badly warped from the heat and water. Chairs, 30 sets of candlepins, a pin grinding machine and other equipment were burned beyond salvage.

At the A&P, on the street floor, eight men were working at the time of the alarm. Using tarpaulins furnished by the fire department and other protective covers in the store during painting operations, they were able to save all stock from damage. Manager Charles Silver said that as far as could be determined nothing was lost from water damage. He said Dr. Charles D. Beale, city health officer, checked the food stocks and pronounced them undamaged in any way.

The 37 regular and volunteer firemen who fought the blaze, Chief Koltonski said, "did a wonderful job—an exceptional job" in keeping it from spreading to the tarpapered roof.

"When I first got there I really thought the roof would be sure to go," he said.

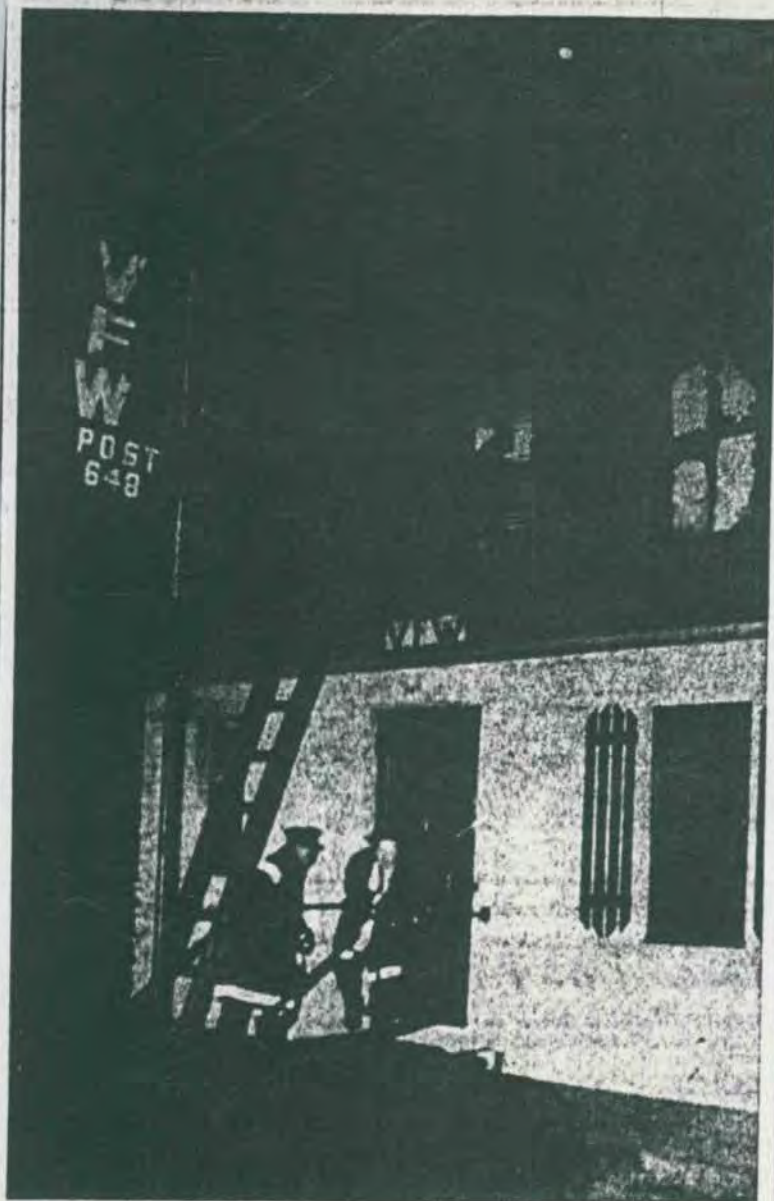
Potential seriousness of the fire was not realized at first, and there was no alarm given to get people out of the building until the arrival of firemen. Within a few minutes they were able to move back into the downstairs stores.

The only fireman injured was Patrick J. Hurley, who cut his thumb. He was treated by fire department physician Dr. William Powers.

In addition to the bowling alleys and the A&P, the building is occupied by Tony's Barber Shop, and by Valente's Cut-Rate, a drugstore on the street floor, and by Valente's pool room on the second floor. Valente said last night that "quite a lot of water" came into the drugstore and barber shop, but said it would be difficult to say how much damage was done until today.

The last fire truck was back in the station at 8:04 p. m., leaving only the emergency lighting unit, which remained in operation until 9:30 p. m.





**Herald Photo—Merna**  
Firemen pause near entrance of the Rutland Veterans of Foreign Wars Post clubrooms during early morning fire yesterday which damaged the Wales St. building to the extent of \$15,000. Cause of the fire is unknown.

## Flames Gut VFW Home

**Estimated \$15,000 Damage Is Caused by Fire Early Yesterday; Cause Unknown.**

An estimated \$15,000 damage was caused early yesterday when flames seared the interior of the Veterans of Foreign Wars clubrooms at 107 Wales St. shortly after 1 a. m.

A VFW official last night said the loss was covered by insurance. He said a considerable amount of equipment and the entire beer and liquor inventory were wiped out by the blaze.

Approximately \$500 was in a safe in the building when the blaze broke out. It was recovered and taken to the police station. A spokesman said the money was kept on the first floor.

Meanwhile Asst. Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean, who directed the battle against the early morning blaze, said yesterday he was unable to make an estimate of the damage.

According to Chief Bean, the fire damaged the bar and an adjoining store room on the first floor of the building. Smoke damage was reported in the reading and card rooms on the first floor and the meeting hall which occupies the second floor of the building.

"The contents were heavily damaged," he pointed out, explaining most damage was due to the intense heat generated by the blaze.

The alarm was sounded at 1:07 a. m. by Officer Robert Ballou of the Police department who spotted the fire while patrolling his beat. Officer Ballou told VFW officials the interior of the building blossomed into flame in the few minutes taken to turn in the alarm at a box on Strongs Ave.

Three trucks, Engines 1 and 3 and the ladder truck, responded to the summons at 1:08 a. m. At 1:10 a. m., a box alarm brought Engine 2 to the scene.

Firemen laid two lines, one on the Strongs Ave. side of the building, the other on the Wales St. side. Chief Bean said one two and one-half-inch line was used, while three boosters were also used to battle the blaze.

"Damage was confined to a heavy char in the interior," Chief Bean said.

Fire officials said a large number of spectators watched the blaze, while police officials said eight officers directed traffic at the scene.

The fire, according to officials, flared in the storage room, but they were unable to determine the cause. They speculated the blaze might have been ignited by a television set, since the set was completely burned and the area near it heavily charred.

The VFW official said the bartender and four club members left the building at midnight. "They





Herald Photo—Merusi  
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The alarm was sounded at 1:07 a. m. by Officer Robert Ballou of the Police department who spotted the fire while patrolling his beat. Officer Ballou told VFW officials the interior of the building blossomed into flame in the few minutes taken to turn in the alarm at a box on Strong's Ave.

Three trucks, Engines 1 and 3 and the ladder truck, responded to the summons at 1:08 a. m. At 1:10 a. m., a box alarm brought Engine 2 to the scene.

Firemen laid two lines, one on the Strong's Ave. side of the building, the other on the Wales St. side. Chief Bean said one two and one-half-inch line was used, while three boosters were also used to battle the blaze.

"Damage was confined to a heavy char in the interior," Chief Bean said.

Fire officials said a large number of spectators watched the blaze, while police officials said eight officers directed traffic at the scene.

The fire, according to officials, flared in the storage room, but they were unable to determine the cause. They speculated the blaze might have been ignited by a television set, since the set was completely burned and the area near it heavily charred.

The VFW official said the bartender and four club members left the building at midnight. "They said everything was OK when they left," he added.

Smoke and water damage was also reported in adjoining buildings. Firemen ejected smoke from the Quebec Cigar Company building at 109 Wales St. Charles J. Moscatello, proprietor of the Modern Cleaners and Tailors at 5 Strong's Ave. said last night all garments in the building may have to be re-cleaned, while there is a possibility the ceiling will have to be replaced. The floor, he said, was also warped by water.

Smoke and water also seeped into Pip's Barber Shop at 7 Strong's Ave., owned by Joseph Moscatello.

Last night Martin J. Carmody, VFW quartermaster, said the organization plans to restore the building. He said the organization hopes to have the building back in operation in a month. Temporary plans, he noted, call for use of the upper section of the building for a club room until repairs are made.

Chief Bean said firemen extinguished the blaze at 2:45 a. m.

While they were fighting the fire, he pointed out, Loren N. Champney served coffee and hot dogs.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 9, 1953.

## Fire Damages City Home

McCullough Residence at Tennybrook Ct., Sustains \$1750 Loss; Garage Threatened.

A fire that started in an overstuffed divan and spread to one wall and the attic of a small house at 6 Tennybrook Ct., occupied by John J. McCullough, did about \$1750 damage and threatened a large attached garage before it was quelled by firemen yesterday morning.

The divan, a rug and other furnishings in the home were destroyed. Other articles of furniture were blistered badly by the heat. One wall and the entire attic above the McCullough residence and the long, attached garage for cars of Tennybrook Ct. residents was badly burned. The house is owned by Dr. Robert Williams of 232 N. Main St.

The call came at 9:08 a. m. when neighbors noticed smoke coming from the McCullough home. McCullough who lives alone was at work at the Howe Scale Company. Engines 1, 2, 3 and 4 answered the call. Firemen, using two booster lines, quickly extinguished the downstairs blaze. They chopped a hole in the attic and pumped a large quantity of water into the blazing, closed-in area before quelling the flames.

McCullough said he believed damage to his own furnishings would amount to at least \$250. In addition to the rug and divan and blistered furniture, his console model radio was put out of commission by the heat and there was heavy smoke damage to curtains and other furnishings.

Dr. Williams said he had not inspected the damage to the house and garage, both his property. However, fire department officials said they estimated damage to both at \$1500 or more.

The cause of the fire is unknown. The last trucks returned to the station at 9:50 p. m. A total of 37 men—regulars and volunteers—answered the alarm.

The only other fire of the day was a grass fire on West St. at 7:50 p. m. It did no damage and was extinguished within a few minutes.

AUGUST 31, 1953.

## Dollar Damage From Rutland Fires Is Small

Just when the weather warmed up, a series of calls made it hotter for city firemen over the week-end.

Total property damage was a few hundred dollars at the most.

In the only blaze of consequence, Engines 1, 2 and 3 responded to an alarm from the home of William A. Fairbanks of 222 Stratton Road at 12:35 p. m. yesterday. Some boxes of clothing and magazines in an unused second-floor storeroom were on fire.

The fire was quickly put out with one booster line. Damage was confined to the stored material and a scorched floor. It wasn't known what started the blaze.

A defective sprinkler alarm at the Norcross-Eldridge, Inc., building on 15 Evelyn St. accounted for two more runs by firemen. The first, at 8:52 a. m. Saturday, was the first fire call in five days in the city. The faulty alarm box tripped out another call Sunday at 1:40 a. m. There was no fire or damage.

A small grass fire Saturday at 2:27 p. m. in the yard of Alteo J. Barbagallo of 43 Union St. furnished city firemen with an eight-minute excursion. Engine 3 made the run.

## Six Fires Keep Department On The Hop Here

Six fires, two of them potentially serious, were handled by the fire department over the week-end.

Yesterday a grass fire flared close to the Esso Standard Oil Company tanks at 102 Meadow St. at 3:52 p. m. The fire was ignited at the rear of 132 South St. and leaped across a tinder-dry meadow to flare within feet of the bulk tanks.

Firemen used a booster and pack pumps to quell the blaze before it ate into heavy growth near the tanks. Engines 1 and 4 were called to the scene. The blaze was dead at 4:11 p. m.

The second fire blazed in a waste container in the Montgomery Ward Tire Shop on Merchants Row at 6:20 a. m. Saturday.

Engines 1 and 3 and the ladder truck were summoned to the blaze.

Fire officials said two boosters were used to wet down the blaze, stating there was a possibility the blaze was set. The door of the building was scorched and a number of windows were broken, fire officials added.

They said the blaze was caused by a cigarette or match thrown into the barrel of waste paper.

A car fire brought firemen to 25 Vernon St. at 12:20 a. m. yesterday. Engines 1, 2 and 3 responded to the summons.

A spokesman said the fire was caused by a flooded carburetor. They said the driver of the car, Norma Pockette of Proctor, was warming the engine when the carburetor flooded and gasoline dropped on a hot exhaust pipe.

The blaze burned near the motor and under the front seat, the spokesman added.

A booster line was used on the fire. The blaze was extinguished at 1 a. m.

The rear of a garage owned by Earl F. Stevens of 121 River St. was scorched yesterday when a shack behind the building was set ablaze. Firemen went to the scene in Engines 1 and 3, leaving the station at 3:21 p. m. and returning at 3:29 p. m. Two boosters were used to fight the blaze.

A spokesman said it was caused by children playing with matches.

A fire at a henhouse owned by P. J. O'Brien of 86 N. Main St. was also handled quickly by firemen, who were called to the scene at 3:50 p. m.

They said hay and chaff were burning on the floor of the unoccupied building. It was believed children kindled the fire through the careless use of matches.

Engines 2 and 3 were sent to the fire. Engine 3 returning at 4:03 p. m., while Engine 2 was in at 4:14 p. m.

The last call reported was a grass fire at 84 East St. at 4:59 p. m. Engine 4 answered the call and was back at 5:08 p. m.



## Blaze Guts ShadowLawn

John Thompson Credited With Saving Life of Invalid; Estimate Damage at \$5000.

Rutland firemen fought flames and choking smoke to rescue two elderly women from the blazing Shadow Lawn Tourist Home at 61 S. Main St. last night and then went on to battle the fire to a standstill and save the building.

Mrs. Mary Flood, resident of the home, was carried out of the smoke-filled building by regular fireman John Thompson in what Chief Alfred H. Koltonski called "a narrow escape from loss of life."

Mrs. Flood, recovering from a fracture of the hip, was unable to walk. The other woman rescued was Mrs. Elizabeth Wheeler, a convalescent.

Both Chief Koltonski and Asst. Chief Ralph R. Bean said that without available modern equipment the rescue probably would not have been possible and Mrs. Flood "would have been asphyxiated within a short time." Thompson's rescue, they said, was a "damn good job."

The telephone alarm to the firemen came at 7:06 p.m. and when Chief Bean arrived seconds later "the first thing I knew someone said there were women upstairs."

He dashed inside and upstairs and began carrying Mrs. Flood out through the murky-black, smoke-filled rooms. His guide, another occupant of the house, lost her way and Bean, without a mask and nearly overcome himself, was forced to take Mrs. Flood back to her own bed in a relatively unaffected part of the building.

By that time, however, Thompson was ready with a smoke mask on and was able to get Mrs. Flood out. Mrs. Flood's daughter, Miss Bernice M. Flood, is the owner of the tourist home which was occupied by 12 persons at the time of the fire.

Mrs. Wheeler, just out of a hospital, was brought down a ladder from the porch in the front part of the building. Fireman Edward Earle, assisted by Capt. James J. Rice and Chief Bean, handled the second rescue operation.

The blaze apparently broke out in the basement of the building, which is one of the oldest in the city, Chief Bean said, and then burned its way up through the heavy, dry wooden walls of the west wing, which is cut into many small rooms.

"There was a lot of fire in that building," Bean said.

One fireman, forcing his way into the kitchen with a booster line, was driven back when the intense heat suddenly set the entire room blazing around him.

Chief Koltonski estimated damage at about \$5000. He said a daylight inspection of the premises would reveal more detail of the loss.

Firemen poured water from three heavy and two light lines attached to two hydrants and from two emergency booster lines into the building. Windows were broken in to clean out the smoke and make minimum visibility possible.

One hydrant failed the department — water gushed up around it, but not out of it, when it was turned on. Fire officials said they believed a blow by a car had done the damage.

Heavy, choking coughs mingled with the sounds of throbbing pump engines and shouts of commands as many of the firemen were overcome with nausea from the thick smoke and fumes.

The only actual "casualty" was Patrick J. Hurley, a regular fireman, who suffered a cut hand while smashing out a window. Two stitches were taken in the wound at Rutland Hospital by Dr. William Powers.

Some of the occupants of the south side of the building were able to remain in their rooms, as the blaze was confined principally to the west wing. Smoke, however, filled much of the front section of the stately white structure.

## Firemen Rescue Two

## From Burning Tourist Home



Herald Photo—Merusi  
Mrs. Elizabeth Wheeler, who only recently returned to her rooms at Shadow Lawn Tourist Home from Rutland Hospital, is assisted down a ladder and to safety from the roof of the tourist home porch as fire threatened the building last night. She was one of two women taken from the smoke-filled building, the other being Mrs. Mary Flood, mother of Miss Bernice Flood. Firemen at ladder top are Deputy Chief Ralph R. Bean (left) and auxiliary fireman J. Tilly Ballard.



Herald Photo—Merusi  
Wrapped in bed clothing, Mrs. Mary Flood is carried by masked fireman John Thompson from smoke-filled corridor of the Shadow Lawn Tourist Home on S. Main St. where she was nearly trapped in her room when fire broke out shortly after 7 p. m. yesterday. Mrs. Flood, who was confined to her bed with a fractured hip, is the mother of Miss Bernice Flood, owner of the tourist home. It is not expected the aged woman will suffer any ill effects from her experience. Also taken to safety was Mrs. Elizabeth Wheeler, who has been recovering from an illness. (Other Picture, Page 7).

A large crowd of people quickly gathered to stand shivering in the cold watching the smoke billow from the building.

Rutland police kept fire lanes open and traffic moving as curious motorists converged on the scene in droves.

It was close to 9:30 p. m. before the last truck rolled into the station with its crew of smoke-blackened men. All four engines answered the call and 34 men in all fought the blaze. Only the old ladder truck remained in the station.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1954

## Kitchen Is Destroyed In Flash Fire

The kitchen of an apartment occupied by William R. Smith of 163 Forest St. was destroyed by fire at 11:20 a. m. yesterday.

A fire department officer said the fire apparently started near the stove, came in contact with a tank of oil which burst and spread throughout the kitchen creating an intense heat.

Destroyed in the fire were the stove, refrigerator, cabinets, furniture and kitchen implements. Other rooms in the apartment suffered smoke damage.

Engines 1 and 3 answered the call.

## Idle Railway Mail Car Is Fire Damaged

Fire yesterday scorched the interior of an abandoned railway postoffice car on the Howe Scale Co. siding on Strongs Ave., according to fire officials.

A fire official said a wooden desk in the interior of the steel car was burned by the smoldering blaze. Cause of the fire was not known. One official speculated children may have entered the car and ignited the interior while playing with matches.

Engines 1 and 3 responded to the alarm at 3:56 p. m.

A booster was used early yesterday to quell a blaze at 90 Grove St. when a smoldering blaze worked its way through a shed on the premises.

Firemen were called to the scene at 3:55 a. m. They returned to the station at 4:26 a. m.

No damage was reported.





Smoke billows from the front of the Supreme Market where fire last night caused thousands of dollars of damage to the one-story building and contents. The blaze was said to have started in a boiler room.

Herald Photo—Merusi

## Fire Sweeps Market Here

**Supreme Building Sustains \$5000 Damage; No Estimate on Food Losses.**

Fire gutted the rear of the Supreme Market on Edson St. early last night, causing thousands of dollars damage to the building and contents.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said building damage alone would total \$5000.

No estimate was available of fire, smoke and heat damage to the huge stock of food but observers guessed that not an item in the store would again command full price.

Thousands of items were burned, cracked open or otherwise damaged.

Within 5 minutes of the first alarm at 6:45 p. m. firemen, eyes streaming from the smoke shooting from all sides of the building, had the fire under control. A big crowd agreed it was an exceptionally fast "stop."

Chief Koltonski said the blaze started in a small boiler room off the rear storage room from unknown cause. It spread throughout the storeroom and then burned through a partition into the main store.

Intense heat that cooked meat in showcases spread into the front of the supermarket scorching the walls.

There also was considerable damage to Mac's Diner, which adjoins the market on West St. Heavy smoke and heat damaged rest rooms at the rear. Water flooded part of the main dining area and basement. Diners were forced to leave their meals due to the smoke.

Two Rutlanders spotted the blaze simultaneously and turned in alarms. Lorenzo Phelps, 43, of Pittsford, saw smoke shooting "straight up from the roof like a smokestack" and yelled to a lad in the door of the Boston market.

About the same time, Howard Parker, 18, of 195 Mussey St., an employee of the adjoining Shell Service station, noticed it. He called to a man inside the station and the latter telephoned firemen.

Minutes after the first pumpers started from the station, firemen set up a general alarm from Box 43 and all city fire equipment, 29 regular firemen and nine call men responded. Four fire hoses were laid.

Fire fighters hit the blaze from several sides and the roof of the one-story building. The market is about 100 by 60 feet and is of wooden construction with brick and masonry facing.

Chief Koltonski said it was "one of the smokiest fires we've had in quite a while" and congratulated his men for the quick stop.

The firemen remained at the scene for hours afterward cleaning up, settling up lights, blowing out the smoke and checking for further trouble in the still-hot woodwork.

The rear of the store was a shambles of upended food, broken glass and paper. Most of the meat cases had cracked glass. Some cases of butter, far from the flames, were partially-melted.

The building is owned by Charles M. Andrews of Rutland, who leases it to the market. The market manager is Eustice Hall of Wallingford. Hall said last night he could not estimate the damage to the store contents immediately. Joseph Connells is in charge of the store's meat department, which was destroyed.

The service station, close though it was to the fire, received only a little smoke and was able to continue operation during the fire.

Rutland police under Chief J. Fred Carbine, set up fire lines and routed traffic throughout the district.

Mayor Dan J. Healy, who was a fire witness, said that it was fortunate the fire didn't occur during last week's water shortage.

DEC-7-1953

## Local Tot Dies As Carriage Is Ignited by Stove

Michael Lethbridge, five months, was fatally burned yesterday morning when his baby carriage caught fire from an oil cooking stove at his home at 193 Curtis Ave.

His mother, Mrs. Francis C. Lethbridge, was burned about the hands in a vain effort to save him by snatching him from his smouldering bedclothes.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said the oil stove set fire to a coat hung over a window by the stove. The coat dropped onto the baby carriage and set the blankets enclosing the child afire.

Mrs. Lethbridge told firemen she was at a neighbors' home getting water at about 6:30 a. m. when she heard screams of her oldest child, Linda Lee, 5, and rushed homewards.

She snatched the child from the smouldering blankets, pinched out with her hands embers clinging to the baby's body and dashed to the house of her neighbor, Mrs. Doris Pitts.

Mrs. Pitts drove the mother and child to the hospital.

The baby died about 10 a. m. The tragedy is still under investigation by the fire and police officials and State's Atty. Earle J. Bishop.

Mr. and Mrs. Lethbridge have two other children besides Linda Lee: Jean, 2, and Francis Jr., 1.

Mrs. Lethbridge's burns were not serious, Chief Koltonski said.

The body was removed to the Aldous Funeral Home pending funeral arrangements.

## Fire Leaves Pair Homeless

**Lumber Worker and Wife Lose All Possessions as Flames Destroy Two-Room Dwelling.**

A lumber worker and his wife were left homeless yesterday when fire destroyed their two-room dwelling at the Boynton Lumber Co. on S. Main St.

Firemen said flames wiped out the small building in a matter of minutes after Mrs. John Sawyer dashed from the flaming structure. Her husband was away at the time of the fire, according to firemen.

Mrs. Sawyer, they said, was given temporary shelter at Rutland Farms. The Sawyers lost all their possessions in the blaze.

Engine 4 of the local fire department was called to the scene at 2:33 p. m., but firemen were unable to control the flames.

Firemen theorized the blaze was started by an overheated stove.

Sawyer is employed by Walter E. Boynton of 105 Lincoln Ave. He has been living in the lumber yard approximately one month.

Boynton last night said the Sawyers were given another building for use as temporary shelter.

Engines 1 and 3 were called to 55 Evergreen Ave. yesterday at 1:04 p. m. to extinguish a chimney blaze. There was no damage.

Firemen used a smoke ejector and CO2 to control a flooded oil burner Saturday at 3:42 p. m. at 112 Plain St. Engines 1 and 3 responded to the alarm.

Engine 3 was called to Charles R. McMaster's Service Station on State St. Saturday at 3:30 p. m. when a car owned by Roland Bartlett burst into flames. Firemen said no equipment was used. There was no damage.

## City Fireman 'Is Overcome

**Charles Taylor Felled While Trying to Gain Entrance to Blazing Attic in Home.**

A Rutland fireman, chopping his way into the blazing attic of a house at 148 Killington Ave., was overcome by smoke and heat about 1:30 p. m. yesterday.

Charles J. Taylor of 25 Williams St. passed out as he was trying to axe a hole into the blind attic of a house owned by E. C. Hendrickson of West Rutland.

Taylor was carried outside by fellow firemen and revived in about five minutes with a "fresh air mask" while others finished the job of chopping an entrance into the attic and doused the flames with water from two booster lines.

After a short rest, Taylor returned to duty for the rest of the day.

"Considerable" damage was done to the rafters and roofing of the attic by the blaze, firemen said, which started while two plumbers were working on fittings in the bathroom on the second floor with a torch.

The plumbers told firemen the torch set fire to insulation around a pipe and then flames raced up the insulation into the attic.

One of the men told Mrs. Hendrickson, who was working around the house, preparing to move the family in June and she telephoned the fire department. The plumbers tried in vain to put out the fire with buckets of water.

The flames burned and charred roof boards and rafters, but did not burn a hole through the roof of the recently constructed house previously occupied by Howard P. Davison.

Firemen said that in addition to the damage in the attic there was "some" water damage in the bathroom on the second floor ceiling of the wooden structure.

Mrs. Hendrickson added that she believed there was also some water damage to the walls and to the downstairs bathroom.

The body and cab of a pick-up truck were almost totally destroyed by flames which raced through a load of waste material in the truck about 3:40 p. m. at the city dump in a second fire.

The driver of the truck, John O'Brien, an employee of the Champlain Valley Fruit Company, was dumping waste insulating material to be burned at the dump when flames from burning refuse ignited the waste and in a few minutes badly burned all of the truck except the front end and engine, firemen explained.

JULY 3, 1954

## Faulty Motor Is Blamed For Kitchen Fire

A defective motor in a refrigerator caught fire and ignited a kitchen wall at 18 Washington St. early yesterday.

Firemen answered the call at 6:50 a. m. at a rooming house owned by Harry R. Church to extinguish a blazing kitchen wall set afire by the burning motor.

Using a booster line, firemen confined the blaze to one wall, but damage from heavy smoke was considerable.

Occupants of the house are Colletta Young, Joyce Curtis, Helen Mylott and N. Mystrom.



# Fire Wrecks Glass Company Warehouse



Dense smoke rises from the two-story Royal Glass Co. warehouse at 36 Wales St. as fire does damage totaling \$15,000 to building and contents early last night. At left, fireman at top of ladder hacks hole through boarded window. Walking toward ladder (at right) is Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski. Fireman James Barron sustained a gashed right arm in fighting the blaze.

Herald Photo—Merusi.

## Flying Glass Cuts Fireman

Supplies Worth \$15,000 Destroyed in Supper-Time Fire; Prisoners in Nearby Jail Calm.

The two-story warehouse of the Royal Glass Co., 36 Wales St., and its \$15,000 contents were wrecked by high-shooting flames about 6 P. M. yesterday.

Veteran fireman James Barron of 53 East St. received a gashed right arm that required five stitches when he was hit by flying glass as he took a fire line into the building.

All city firemen, 29 regulars and eight call men, fought the general alarm blaze in the frame structure hemmed in a small area just west of the county jail and behind the establishments fronting Wales and Center Sts.

Louis Accavallo, glass company owner who leases the warehouse from his brother, Robert L. Accavallo, said most of the contents, including cutting tables, dollies and glass pads would be worth \$15,000, part of it covered by insurance.

There was considerable water damage to the rear storeroom of the Rutland Paint and Glass Co., abutting the burning warehouse at 67 Center St. Water poured through the roof which is on a level with the warehouse. Paints and other inflammables were not near the fire area.

Water entered the apartments owned by Mrs. Mary D. Valiquette at 67½ Center St. but did little harm. The apartments were not threatened directly but occupants left when the fire got too big for comfort.

The blaze, throwing a white smoke high in the air, was hard to reach but firemen had five lines on it. Lines were laid through alleys from Center and Wales Sts.

An old wooden garage built against the north side of the warehouse also was damaged by the flames. It was empty except for the automobile of Mrs. Jacqueline Newton of 32 Wales St. which was pulled to safety.

Cause of the fire is unknown. The building was unheated but wired for electricity. It had been occupied during the day, the owner said.

A crowd of perhaps a thousand persons watched the fire-fighting and at times added to the difficulties of firemen. Traffic was at a standstill at Center and Wales Sts., one of the city's busiest intersections.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski took personal charge of the work and at one point was almost lost to view standing on the roof of a building overlooking the warehouse. Firemen had a number of ladders against the building, which burned hotly inside after flame was beaten from the outside.

The fire was discovered by Raymond Parron Sr. and Sheriff Franzoni and the alarm was telephoned at 5:49 p. m. by Mrs. Franzoni from the Franzoni home next to the jail.

Two minutes later firemen pulled Box 4 and the whole department went to work. The trucks returned to the station between 7 and 7:30 p. m.

Fire-fighters on the roof made black silhouettes against a sky made bright by the flames, while thick white smoke rose about them, sometimes almost obscuring them from sight.

Several small and highly excited boys crowded around one Herald reporter, each claiming it was he who had discovered the fire first. Later they threw snowballs through open windows at the flames, making their contribution to the fight against fire.

Water poured in a small river down the alley from the burning building to Wales St., cutting its way among icy banks and brimming up over the hoses that crossed and re-crossed the alley, as well as over the boots and shoes of firemen and onlookers.

One prisoner of the Rutland County Jail was seen casually strolling about his basement quarters despite the fact that the fire was next door and high-pressure hoses were playing their streams close by.

The crash of icicles was heard now and then early in the fire as water played against the roof eaves and long fingers of ice dropped to the ground.



Fireman Barron being led from burning building.

Twenty prisoners at the county jail declined to interrupt their card games during the fire, according to Sheriff Geno N. Franzoni. Windows on the jail's west side were cracked by heat—the inmates are housed on the other side of the brick-steel lockup. There was no noticeable heat in the jail.

The fire burned a telephone cable which ran close to the building and cut off the service of about 35 business telephones. The county jail phone and a home phone which were also cut out were quickly repaired and the business phones are to be fixed early today, company officials said.

RUTLAND DAILY HERALD, SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 10, 1954.



Heavy, black smoke billows into the sky as fire yesterday destroyed a large pile of old tires in the Donahue Salvage Supply Co. yard at 32 Allen St. The heavy smoke which darkened the skyline attracted hundreds of persons.

Herald Photo—Merusi.



## Old Tires Go Up in Smoke

General Alarm Blaze at Donahue Salvage Co. Sends Towering Black Cloud Over Area.

A large pile of old tires burned with a towering cloud of acrid smoke yesterday morning as firemen fought a general alarm blaze at the Donahue Salvage Supply Co., 32 Allen St.

The damage was minor. But the flames, racing toward homes and working into piles of boards and other salvage material was fought by all city firemen, off-day men and call men.

They laid nearly two-fifth of a mile of four-inch hose from a hydrant on Allen St. and caught the flames with booster lines from a pumper brought into a lane on Mussey St. where the fire was heading.

Five policemen directed traffic at the scene as a rush of motorists attracted by the massive cloud of smoke converged on S. Main St. and Allen St. about the same time.

The fire pile, one of the hottest of fires, flared again at 2:06 p. m. and firemen again doused it with water.

Firemen were already on a call to 71 School St., where a refrigerator had flared up, when the salvage yard report came by telephone. It had begun from a torch being used to cut the rear end from an old bus.

Box 87, calling all fireman reserves, was set up at 10:34 a. m. from the fire station and a radio call directed Engine 4, at School St., to hasten to Allen St.

The flames cut a path south across the salvage firm yard and crossed a wire fence to the property of Theodore Keiffer Jr. of 215 Mussey St.

George Donahue, manager of the salvage firm, said the fire loss was negligible.

Firemen also answered several grass fire calls yesterday. They were to Pine and Howe Sts. at 1:09 p. m.; and to 163 Forest St. at 2:12 p. m. The latter fire occurred as firemen were giving the tire pile another wetting down. The jeep answered the grass fire call.

## Fire Guts Apartment

Damage to Harrison Ave. Dwelling Estimated at \$2000 in Morning Blaze.

A fire that gained a head-start during absence of the occupants did an estimated \$2000 damage to a six-room apartment on the second floor of 71 Harrison Ave. yesterday morning.

The fire burned a utility room, where it started, much of a living room and scorched and smoked the rest of the apartment, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. David W. Wellington and two children.

The blaze erupted from unknown cause after Mrs. Wellington left home about 9:30 a. m. The rest of the family had left earlier.

It was discovered by Mrs. Harold J. Johnson, who lives in the downstairs apartment and is the house owner, with her husband. Mrs. Johnson heard an explosion about 11:30 a. m., went outdoors and saw the smoke. She believes the explosion was a small tank of oil.

Assistant Fire Chief Ralph B. Bean said the utility room at the head of the stairs was enveloped in flames and apparently had been burning for some time when firemen first saw it.

Firemen used two booster lines from Engines 1 and 3 and followed up with smoke ejectors. The apartment was thoroughly smoked up.

The estimate of \$2000 was made by an insurance agent and did not include loss to furnishings. Wellington told The Herald late yesterday. The living room set was badly damaged by fire and there was smoke damage to contents throughout the apartment.

The Wellingtons moved out after the fire and were staying with relatives in the city.

Firemen answered the call at 11:30 a. m. and were on the scene about an hour.

Firemen also put out several grass fires during the day. These were on S. Main St., at 9:48 a. m.; and on Dorr Dr., near St. Joseph's Novitiate, at 2:14 p. m.

MARCH 19, 1954.

## West Rutland Home Burns

Grass Fire Spreads to Building Occupied by 13 People; Other Dwellings Threatened.

A two-family house in West Rutland occupied by 13 persons was leveled yesterday by a fire which threatened to sweep a row of homes on the street.

The wind-whipped blaze razed the frame dwelling occupied by Mrs. Anna Jarrosak, her two sons and grandson, and by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Grabowski and six young children.

Loss of the double home and most of the contents was unofficially estimated at \$20,000. Only a few belongings were saved from the ground floor.

The cause of the fire was a small grass blaze which was swept by the wind into a shed and then to the Grabowski side of the house, according to Fire Chief Stanley Pietryka.

A combination of events brought the heavy loss, according to the fire chief. Firemen were called to "a grass fire" at the hill site, which is outside the West Rutland fire district. They arrived with the old pumper and immediately sent for the new fire engine when they found what had happened. The only water available was a small runoff brook behind the house. The stream did not furnish enough water for such a fire.

The fire, which began about 3:45 p. m., was fought by about 20 men of the West Rutland department—the entire force—and by Rutland firemen who arrived with Engine 1 and the service car. The Rutlanders helped by hooking onto the West Rutland department lines.

The home of Mrs. Anna Jakubowski across the street at 33 Baxter St. caught fire at rooftop level, but this was quickly put out. The house was singed and several windows broke under the heat.

A garage at the home of Edward Nelson at 26 Baxter St., adjoining the burning home, also was singed.

Mrs. Grabowski and her six children and Mrs. Jarrosak fled the flames.

Cause of the small grass blaze which started the bigger fire was not determined last night, but Chief Pietryka said he had reports "some kids were fooling around behind the shed." The shed was situated a few feet from the Grabowski porch, which was the first part of the home to be ignited.

Mrs. Jarrosak lives with her sons, John and Joseph Jarrosak, and a grandson, Philip Jarrosak. A widow, she has three other sons, Peter, Aleck and William, in Korea, according to neighbors. Mrs. Jarrosak and her sons went to Hartford last night to stay with a daughter.

West Rutland firemen were able to get only about 100 pounds pressure from the brook after digging a deep hole to get more suction. The new pumper is capable of throwing 1000 gallons a minute with adequate water.

Donations of clothing and household goods for the burned-out Stanley Grabowski family were requested yesterday by the Rutland County Red Cross.



Eight funeral casket crates, spilled from their truck when it was involved in a collision with a Rutland Fire department ladder truck on West St. hill, are shown piled up together in a photograph taken shortly after the accident yesterday. The fire truck was responding to a false alarm sounded by an eight-year-old boy.



Deputy Fire Chief Ralph Bean, using an iron bar, straightens the left rear fender of the ladder truck which was crumpled against the wheel in the accident.

## Fire Truck Is Damaged

Ladder, on False Alarm Run, in Collision With Casket-Carrying Truck.

The Rutland Fire Department ladder truck was damaged yesterday responding to a false alarm pulled by an eight-year-old boy.

The truck was in collision at the corner of West and Court Sts. with another truck loaded with eight funeral casket cases, which were thrown to the street. There was some damage to this truck and the cases.

Box 21 at Nichols St. and Grant Ave. was pulled about 12:40 p. m. and the ladder truck, along with all other fire trucks in the city, responded.

The ladder truck, with Frank Walsh driving and Richard Barron in the rear tiller position, was making the turn from Court St. up West St.

A platform truck of the National Casket Co. of Albany, N. Y., was coming down West St. The driver, Herbert Hall, stopped his truck at the intersection as the fire truck approached, police said.

Officers stated two other cars were parked on Court St. in such a position that "the ladder was forced to make a very wide turn" up the hill.

The left rear fender of the 27-year-old, 61-foot-long American LaFrance ladder rig was in contact with the left side of the casket truck and the caskets were swept into the street.

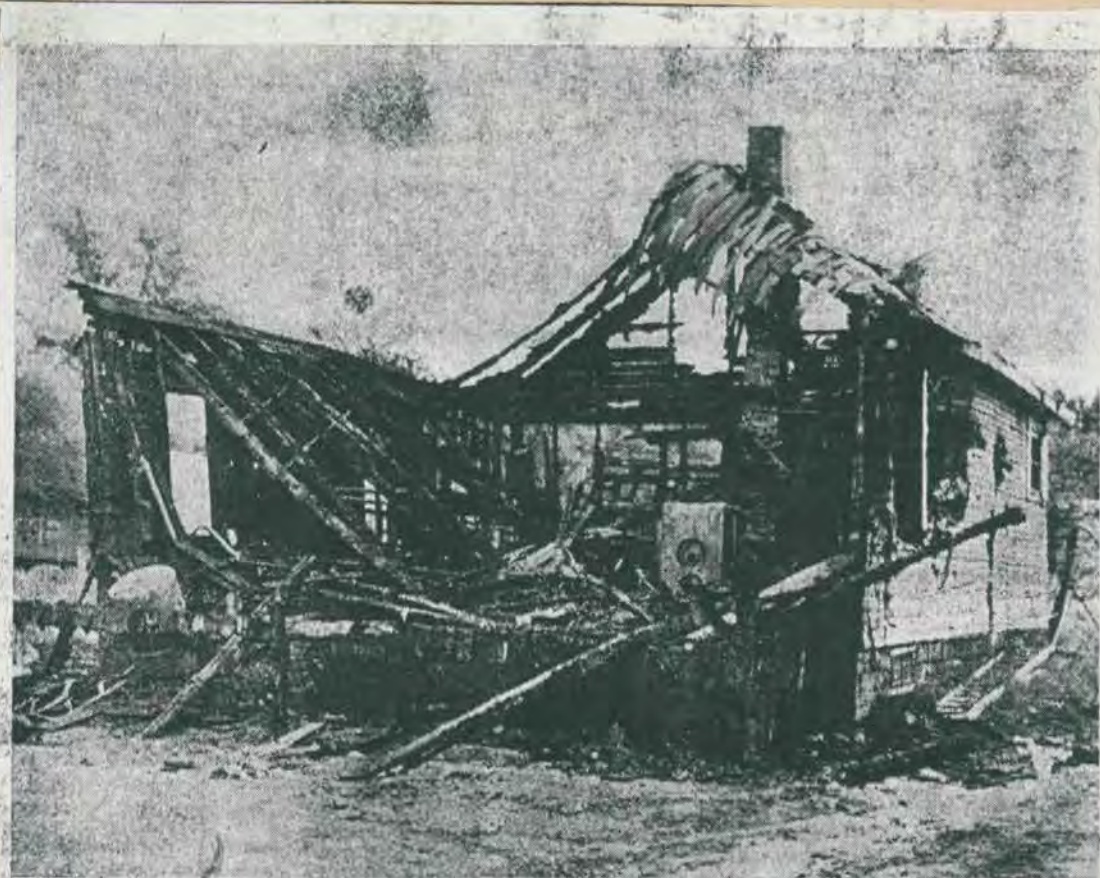
Two of the eight cases contained caskets and one of these was split open, but the casket appeared unmarked. Another empty case was broken to pieces. Damage was estimated at about \$100 to the platform truck and the cases.

The ladder truck received damage to the fender area and the tiller steering mechanism. Fire officials said the damage would depend on the cost of replacements.

Nobody was hurt. The casket truck driver said he was delivering the caskets in this area and had only two left. These were protected inside the cases by heavy cloth protectors.

The youngster who pulled the false alarm "got a spanking from his mother," authorities said.





Herald Photo—Merusi.  
Three-year-old Gene R. Hadley and his sister, Karen, 7, were fatally burned and six others—five of them children—hospitalized by fire which early yesterday destroyed this Jackson Ave. house, occupied by two families. Gene was the son of Mrs. Dorothy Hadley.

JUNE 6, 1954

## 2 Tots Perish In Fire

Gene R. Hadley, 3, Sister, Karen, 7, Succumb to Burns as Flames Destroy Jackson Ave. House.

## Six Injured

Patricia Duprey, 13, in Critical Condition, Two Other Children Hospitalized After Tragedy.

Two children lost their lives and six other persons were burned in a flash fire that swept unchecked through a small, frame house at 156 Jackson Ave. early yesterday.

Dead are Gene R. Hadley, 3, and his sister, Karen, 7, children of Mrs. Dorothy Hadley.

In critical condition at Rutland Hospital is Patricia Duprey, 13, their cousin, who suffered severe burns in the 6 a. m. blaze that practically destroyed the home occupied by two families.

Also burned in attempts to flee the flames or rescue other members of the two families were Marsha, 4, and Lyle Hadley, 12, children of Mrs. Hadley; Muriel, 16, and Pauline Duprey, 13, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Duprey.

All were treated at the hospital but only Marsha and Lyle Hadley remained at the institution over night.

Mrs. Duprey, the sixth injured member of the two families, suffered arm burns when she tried to reach the upstairs bedroom where six of the children were sleeping when the fire broke out.

Forced back by flames, she later helped Mrs. Hadley bring the children down a ladder from the roof of a back porch where the youngsters clamored in their flight from the fire.

According to fire officials, the blaze started near a TV set in a front room in the northwest corner of the building. The flames apparently swept swiftly up the nearby stairs, shutting off the escape route for the six children.

Mrs. Duprey, Mrs. Hadley and Muriel Duprey, who were asleep downstairs, fled the house when they found they could neither get up the blazing stairs nor reach the telephone near the TV set.

The trapped children finally tumbled one by one through the bedroom window onto the porch roof where they either jumped or were helped down the makeshift ladder to safety.

Mrs. Duprey said she believed the children's escape through the window was delayed by their search for the baby, Gene, in the smoke-filled room.

She said the baby apparently started down the stairs and was driven back. The other children finally crawled through the window without him. The baby, under his own power, was the last one through the window.

He tumbled unconscious onto the porch roof, Mrs. Duprey said.

The window through which the children escaped was hammered open by 13-year-old Pauline Duprey, Patricia's twin, with her fists.

As the wild scramble for safety unfolded some of the children slid off the roof to the ground. Mrs. Duprey caught the other twin, badly burned Patricia, as she fell from the roof.

The first alarm was given by next door neighbor David Mac of 158 Jackson Ave. Mac said he awoke suddenly as if from a dream. When

he saw the smoke he made two tries to telephone the fire department, finally contacting city police.

Firemen, who got the first alarm at 6:09, found the house wrapped in flames when they arrived. All the occupants were outside.

Engines 2 and 3 answered the first alarm, with Engine 4 being called out six minutes later. Two 2½-inch lines were placed on the house from the hydrant at Stratton Rd. and Jackson Ave., "but it was a hopeless task," a fire official said.

Police Officer Charles J. Fox, one of the first on the scene, sped to the hospital with three of the injured children in his cruiser. Another neighbor, Thomas L. Ryan of 118 Jackson Ave., took a second car load of the injured to the hospital.

The swiftness of the fire, according to witnesses, was awful. Mac said by the time he completed his call and looked again at the house it was totally in flames. The flames moved so fast they trapped the housewife and dog, Brownie, in the rear shed attached to the building. He died on the spot.

The state fire marshal's office has been asked to investigate the blaze, according to local authorities. A member of the office is expected here today.

Mrs. Hadley, whose husband was killed several years ago in an automobile accident, and Mrs. Duprey are sisters-in-law.

Mrs. Duprey's husband, who has been working in Hartford, Conn., arrived in Rutland about 7 p.m. yesterday. He was notified of the fire earlier by city police.

Dr. Edward J. Layden, who treated most of the victims at Rutland Hospital, said the boy was burned all over. Emergency treatment, including plasma, was administered immediately. He died about four hours later.

Karen, who died about 10:30 p.m., suffered arm, leg, neck, face and chest burns. Her hair was burned completely off.

Patricia, suffered extensive burns on the hands, arms, feet, legs and face. She was treated by Dr. Thomas A. Keenan, as was Mrs. Duprey.

The injuries of the others included: Lyle Hadley, a Rutland Herald Carrier Merchant in the Englem Ave. area, burns on the arms, condition good; his sister, Marsha, light first and second degree burns, condition good; Muriel Duprey, light burns, discharged from the hospital; and Pauline Duprey, light burns, discharged from the hospital.

Joseph Brislin, disaster chairman of the local Red Cross, said clothing would be provided members of the two families today. The members not in the hospital spent last night with friends in the neighborhood.

DECEMBER 11, 1954

## Fire Wrecks Apartment

Tenant Burned as He Tries to Put Out Blaze in Bare Feet at 8 Wales St.

Fire made a wreck of a rear apartment in the frame home occupied by four families at 8 Wales St. yesterday morning.

Robert Burke, 24, occupant of the apartment, fought it upstairs in his bare feet with water from the kitchen sink while his wife rushed their two small children, Billy, 2, and Robert, 9 months, out of the house.

Burke received burns on the feet and was unable to check the blaze, finally extinguished by firemen who had to chop through a partition and into the attic to "head off" the fast-moving flames.

Mrs. Elton Tuliper and three children in the downstairs front apartment also ran from the house on order of firemen. The family of Harry Royce, including six small children, moved yesterday from the central apartment downstairs. The fourth apartment, upstairs, is occupied by two lumberjacks who were not present. One of them, Joe Aubrey, is the tenant, a fire report showed.

The fire started where a stove-pipe from a wood stove in the downstairs living room passes through the ceiling into the kitchen upstairs. It spread through the ceiling partition toward the front of the house and up into the attic. It also burned the stairway. All contents in the living room were burned.

Burke, who was laid off from a building job some time ago, said he was upstairs with the two children and Mrs. Burke was downstairs when the fire burst forth. Mrs. Burke saw it first and hollered fire, then ran upstairs to get the children. Burke went to work with water from the faucet but said he was not fast enough to stop it. He was still working when firemen arrived.

The fire department received the call at 9:19 a. m. and rang Box 41. Three engines were at the scene. The fire was quickly brought down with water from a booster line taken upstairs and another line in the living room below. The last fire engine left the scene about 10 a. m.

The building is owned by James Abateili and the lessee is Pasquale Patoti.

## Home Swept By Oil Fire

Kellogg House on Jackson Ave. Blackened by Smoke; Pet Cat Suffocated.

A cat died from suffocation and eight rooms of furniture were blackened with oil smoke when fire broke out yesterday in the cellar of a home owned by Mr. and Mrs. John M. Kellogg of 108 Jackson Ave.

A fire department official said the blaze started when oil escaped from an oil-burning hot water heater and poured flaming across the cellar floor.

Heat from the flames burst on oil-filled glass feeder bottle which added fuel to the fire, sending flames six feet to the cellar ceiling.

A pile of wood caught fire and flames shot up a cold air register into the dining room, burning curtains on a window.

Smoke spread rapidly throughout the house blackening every piece of furniture and all the walls.

Three engines answered the call from a neighbor who thought the chimney was afire. When the department arrived huge clouds of black greasy smoke were billowing from the eaves of the house.

Using booster pumps firemen extinguished the blaze in about 15 minutes and then used smoke ejectors to clear the house.

The department official said a 55 gallon tank was heated to the point where another five or 10 minutes would have split it open pouring gallons of oil into the flaming cellar.

The cat, one of two family pets, was found dead from smoke suffocation in the cellar.

No estimate of the damage could be given, but Mrs. Kellogg, a Herald employee, said every room will have to be repainted and repapered.

In addition all furniture will have to be cleaned.

## Shrewsbury Home Burns

Young Son of Merle Flanders Alerts Family to Danger; Damage \$20,000.

A 10-year-old Shrewsbury boy aroused his family early yesterday after he discovered a fire raging in the family dwelling.

Jeff Flanders, son of Mr. and Mrs. Merle Flanders, aroused his parents and a sister, Gail, 12, to the danger. The family escaped without injury.

The home, owned by Roger Keith of Mendon, was destroyed in the fire. Keith last night estimated damage at approximately \$20,000. He said the loss was partially covered by insurance.

Cause of the fire is unknown.

A Rutland fire department official said the blaze apparently started on the south side of the home. He said Engine 4 of the local department responded to a telephone alarm at 1:45 a. m.

Three Rutland firemen used a booster to save the barn from the flames, according to a spokesman.

He said nothing was salvaged from the blazing building. The family, he added, escaped only with clothes.

Members of the Cuttingsville Fire Department were also called to the scene.

The Flanders family was taken to the Keith home.

Keith is the owner of Mendon Mountain Orchards and personnel director at the Howe Scale Co.





Firemen enter basement of South End Market which was damaged by fire and smoke early yesterday. The eight occupants, including Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Salerni and two daughters, fled in their night clothing under wraps. Two dogs, whose barks awakened the family, were suffocated.

Herald Photo—Merusi.

## Eight Flee Store Fire

Two Watchdogs Suffocate After Alerting Residents of South End Market Building.

Alerted by the barking of two watchdogs, eight occupants of the South End Market building fled early yesterday morning from fire that caused heavy damage to a big stock of food.

Firemen who forced their way inside found the two dogs dead of suffocation in a room at the rear of the market.

No estimate of damage was available last night in the wake of the flames that broke out in the basement and virtually destroyed large quantities of food stocked there. Heat and smoke caused additional damage to the first-floor market and smudged up the top-floor apartment from which the sleeping occupants fled.

All fire apparatus in the city except old engine 4 — the "grass fire truck" — answered the alarm, to 102 Strong Ave. at 3:10 a. m. In the midst of the fire an alarm came from 9 Englem Ave. and Engine 4 rolled to it with two firemen. It proved to be a small kitchen blaze caused by a short circuit in wiring leading to the refrigerator.

It was the excited and strange-sounding barking of two faithful pointer dogs which aroused eight sleeping persons above the market as flames crackled in the food-filled basement.

The two dogs, Spotty and Shiner, were kept in a room behind the main market and from which stairs led down to the basement. This room was probably the first to fill with thickening smoke that later settled over the whole neighborhood.

Occupants upstairs were Anthony Salerni, his wife and two daughters, Miss Mary Salerni, 25, and Miss Kathleen Salerni, 18, and Miss Mary Barone, a distant relative. Also in the apartment upstairs were Mrs. Margaret Cioffi, a relative of Mrs. Salerni from Niagara Falls, N. Y., and her two children, Antoinette, 8, and Sammie, 13, all guests of the Salernis.

Mrs. Salerni, with tears in her eyes, said yesterday that "if it wasn't for our dogs we wouldn't be here today. We had them for a good many years and they always protected the store and warned us when anyone came near the place at night."

Miss Barone was awakened by the dogs' excited barking and said she thought somebody was trying to break into the store.

"I got up and then I heard a funny kind of crackling noise. I looked out the window and saw reflections in the windows next door and I knew it was a fire."

"I ran to Mr. and Mrs. Salerni's room and woke them up. And then we woke the rest of them."

"We got into some bathrobes. There was too much smoke to get down the back stairs, but we came down the outside front stairway without any trouble."

Salerni telephoned the fire department and Engines 1, 2 and 3 and the ladder truck responded. Fire box 38 was set up from the fire station on radioed instructions from fire officials at the scene. A mobile light plant and the department jeep also were called to the fire.

Several hundred spectators were at the scene. No flame was visible from the street but the fire burned timbers and walls of the basement of the brick building. Two hose lines were laid and a booster line was also used.

Fire Chief A. H. Koltonski said yesterday cause of the fire has not been ascertained.

Insurance adjusters yesterday began the job of checking food supplies to learn the extent of damage. It was estimated it would run into many thousands of dollars.

Last fire engines left the scene at 5 p. m. and the fire release was sounded at that time.

## Howe Scale Shed Burns

Largest Industrial Plant in Rutland Threatened for Time by Blaze; Fireman Hurt.

Fire roared through a large sand shed at the Howe Scale Co. last night, carrying a threat to other buildings at Rutland's largest industrial plant.

The blaze wrecked the 70-foot shed located just a few feet east of the foundry. It was used to store the special sand used to make castings. A number of mould boards stacked beside the shed were burned.

Roger Keith, personnel manager, said the cause was not known. He put the loss at "several thousand dollars."

All regular firemen, call men and off duty fire fighters were summoned to the blaze which could be seen throughout the lower end of the city.

The one-story wood shed, about 15 feet wide, threw off heavy smoke and sparks which made approaching it rough on the fire fighters.

One fireman was injured. James P. Barron received a painful burn of the left wrist. Barron was handling hose in the doorway of the burning shed when he slipped. His glove came off, another fireman said, and his arm came in contact with some heated wood or sand.

The central fire station got its first telephoned alarm at 8:27 p. m. and immediately three more calls from other persons reporting the fire. Three fire engines went out at once. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski radioed back orders to set up Box 36 from the station. The box rang a number of rounds but eventually stuck and was turned off.

Among those who spotted the blaze was an unidentified lad who ran into the home of James Trapani of 63 Plain St. Trapani went to the home of his brother, Paul, of 64 Plain St., who telephoned the fire department.

Clifford Willard, a member of the "shake out" shift in the foundry, said men in the foundry were first aware of the fire when it rose enough to show through the windows. A crane operator hollered to him and he told the foundry fireman to call the fire department.

Keith said the chief immediate threat of the fire was to the mould boards, which he and others started to pull away from the burning shed. In the process of casting, the wooden pattern is laid down, sand is rammed in and the pattern removed to make way for the molten iron. The mould boards are made nearby but their destruction would interrupt foundry work.

About 30 telephone calls jammed fire department lines immediately after the fire whistle sounded.

Fire trucks went through the main gate, laid lines from a hydrant in the center of the sprawling plant and pulled up by the shed just south of the foundry.

## Blaze Spoils Emerys' Day

Four Children Escape Smoke-Filled Temple St. Home; Damage \$1000.

Fire made a shambles out of Christmas Day for one Rutland family as it roared up through partitions of the home of Fred K. Emery at 93 Temple St. Christmas morning.

Mrs. Emery, her three children and a visiting Fresh Air guest from New York City were awakened Saturday to find the house charged with smoke and hastily grabbed enough clothing to run outside. They remained at a neighbor's house until the fire was out.

Emery, a chef at the Wheeler Williams, was working.

It appeared for a short while that the house would be threatened and firemen, called at 9:33 a. m., sent back word for a box alarm. First firemen at the scene had to inch their way inside on hands and knees.

The fire was chiefly confined to partitions leading from the cellar to the second floor but came out to burn walls in both downstairs and upstairs rooms. Dense smoke entered every cranny of the house.

Mrs. Emery said some Christmas presents stored in the basement were burned. Some furniture and clothing also were burned. Smoke damage was everywhere.

Damage was unofficially estimated at well over \$1000.

Mrs. Emery said she woke to find smoke so dense she could not see the crib of her youngest son, David, 2. She jumped up, grabbed him and ran into the hall, calling to Frederick, 8, to wake his sister, Susan, 8, and the guest, Carolyn Denveno of New York City. Mrs. Emery grabbed a blanket with which she wrapped David and put him in a carriage on the porch. Then she ran back inside and tried to telephone an alarm. The telephone, next to a partition, was hot and she had to leave the house. The alarm was sent from a neighbor's home.

Christmas Day was just trying to straighten out a smoked and burned house for the Emery family. They were able to return home afterward, but there were no lights or heat upstairs.

Firemen said the blaze originated in some wood which had been laid on top of the furnace.

Box 31 was sounded at 9:38 a. m. and the release at 10:07 a. m. The last fire engine left the scene at 10:27 a. m.

APRIL 3, 1954

## Grass Fires In City Threaten Two Buildings

Firemen were called yesterday to eight grass fires in less than three hours, scorching a porch and menacing a barn.

The first blaze was at 12:30 p. m. at 118 Curtis Ave. followed by fires at 12:50 p. m. on Gleason Rd., 1 p. m. opposite the G. H. Grimm plant, 1:02 p. m. at St. John St., 1:44 p. m. at Chaplin Ave., 2:04 p. m. at Baxter and Crescent Sts., 2:05 p. m. at Jackson Ave. and 3:14 p. m. at Gay St.

Crews moved out three times more following the Gay St. blaze. Burning grass was extinguished at Harrington and Howard Aves. at 6:38 p. m.; Williams and Nichols Sts., adjacent to the Rutland Hospital, at 6:55 p. m.; and Dartmouth St. and Howard Ave. at 7:43 p. m.

The blaze at Curtis Ave. started from an incinerator and spread into a grove of trees. When firemen arrived they had a wood fire to contend with but succeeded in holding it at the edge of the woods.

Firemen said the conflagration at Baxter and Crescent Sts. touched off a porch fire on a vacant house. No damage was done.

A barn on Gleason Rd. narrowly missed burning. The grass fire there crept within a half a foot of the structure, before firemen brought it under control.

## 11 Flee Fire On Pine St.

Seven Children Among Two Families to Escape Blaze Started by Exploding Stove.

Eleven persons, including seven young children, fled a two-story house at 9 Pine St. last night as flames raced through several downstairs rooms.

The fire, resulting from an exploding pot-burner stove, was knocked down by city firemen who had to work their way into the house through flames.

It occurred in the downstairs apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Poro and their three young children, whom they carried from the house.

Poro said he had just turned the stove in the dining room down and walked from the room when he heard a loud thud. One side of the stove was blown out and the flames shot to the wooden walls and ceiling.

Poro grabbed two of the children and his wife the third, all three in bed in two rear bedrooms. Poro also called to warn occupants of the upstairs apartment.

They were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Quelch, owners of the house, and their children, Henry, 8, Maurice, 4, Margaret, 3, and Juanita, only a week old. The Quelch children were getting ready to retire.

The Poro children are Richard Jr., 4, Patricia, Ann, 3, and Mary Ellen, 1.

The fire gutted the dining room, burning a hole into the upstairs apartment which filled with smoke. Ceilings of several other downstairs rooms and a bathroom were scorched.

Firemen said the house was filled with flame when they arrived. They used two booster lines on it. Afterwards they used smoke ejectors and the Quelch family was able to return to their apartment.

The Poro family spent the night with relatives next door, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Marro.

Fire apparatus was called out at 8:48 p. m. and returned to the station at 9:28 p. m.

Poro, 24, is a truck driver for the State Distribution Co.

## Convalescent Home Periled

Quick Action by Proprietor and City Firemen Stop Blaze in Room Above Garage.

A fire which posed a threat to the Haskins Convalescent Home, 20 E. Washington St., was extinguished through quick action of the proprietor and the Rutland Fire Department yesterday.

The fire burst out in a vacant room above the convalescent home garage, a wooden structure attached to the home, about 4 p. m.

Mrs. Julia Haskins, proprietor, was in the home when she heard a thump from the garage. A rope holding a folding staircase to the second floor of the garage had burned through, allowing the staircase to drop with a bang.

Mrs. Haskins unlocked the garage door and a man whose name she did not obtain backed the car out.

Mrs. Haskins also used two large hand extinguishers to keep the fire in check while firemen were called by telephone and through an alarm from Box 35.

Firemen with Engines 1, 2, and 3 were on the scene at 4:11 and put the blaze out by means of booster lines, later using a smoke ejector. There was some fire damage to walls, but the blaze was confined to the room which is occasionally used for drying linen.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said the fire apparently originated with a small space heater in the room. The fire damage was not estimated last night but was not thought to be large.

Mrs. Haskins said that although some smoke seeped into the kitchen of the convalescent home there was no disturbance in the home. The patients were in a part of the home well removed from the garage and most did not know of the fire.





Herald Photo—Merust  
Smoke billows from the Forest St. home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Moore and their four children which was damaged by fire yesterday. Tony Consentino operates a shoe repair shop on the street floor of the three-story building.

## Fire Damages Third Story

Two Families Have to Vacate Home on Forest St. With Six Children.

Two families, including six children, were forced to move out of their home yesterday when fire damaged the unoccupied third story of the frame house at 35 Forest St.

Although the flames never reached the two occupied lower floors and little or no damage was done to their contents, damage to the roof and top story must be repaired before the premises can be lived in.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Moore and their four children and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Graham and their two children were all reported by firemen to be absent from their second story apartments when the fire broke out.

Tony Consentino, whose shoe repair shop takes up the ground floor, was also away when the blaze was discovered.

The first alarm was phoned in by a neighbor who noticed smoke coming from the roof at 2:11 p. m. Engines one and three answered the call with an officer and six men. They did a quick "size up" and realized that the entire top story was involved and additional help would be needed.

They radioed the fire station to send out a box alarm which alerted the entire town and brought in all members of the "off duty" crew. It also brought a large crowd of spectators to watch the smokeeaters in action.

Assistant Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean, who commanded the fire fighting operation, assisted by 2nd Assistant Chief Frank Seward and Capt. Percy Wood, said that it was a very tough place to get at because the entire story involved was in flames and closed in with a blanket of thick, black smoke. It was necessary for hose men and ladder men to use smoke masks and smoke ejecting equipment in order to gain entrance and remain inside.

Chief Bean said he could not over-emphasize the punishment firemen have to take in bringing a fire like that under control, while doing everything possible to prevent damage to property and possessions in the fire area.

Only one minor mishap occurred during the fire-fighting session, when fireman John W. Thompson broke the stitches from a minor operation on his neck, which had to be re-sewn at the hospital after the fire.

The cause of the fire, Chief Bean said, remained a mystery. It obviously was not caused by either one of the two stoves in operation in the two occupied apartments, he said, and other possible causes investigated had been eliminated.

He said that Graham had been in the attic about 10:30 a. m. in search of his wife's rubbers and had noticed nothing to indicate a fire. Further investigation will be made, the chief added.

The fire was pronounced out at 4:30 p. m.

Jasper Cacioppi of 83 Forest St., who owns the building, said he had not yet received an estimate of damage from the insurance company and was unable to make a guess himself as to the amount of damage or the cause of the fire.

At least six huge canvas salvage covers were used to cover the furnishings of the two apartments on the second floor and the equipment and merchandise of the shoe shop on the first floor. As a result, the only loss other than the damage to the roof and the top story, might be some slight water damage.

Fire fighting and water disposal was all done on the third story where the flames were, and through the roof. It was necessary to tip through the slate shingles in order to reach the wood shingles which were burning underneath. However, the second story ceiling was left entirely intact. Work was made especially hazardous since the attic story had been sealed off and plastered to make a three-room apartment, unoccupied at the present time.

Principal equipment used to extinguish the blaze were two-inch and a half hydrant hoses and two booster lines, which draw their water supply from the trucks until the hydrant lines are put into use.



Herald Photos—Merust  
Firemen are silhouetted against flames which burst through the roof of the core room of the Howe Scale Co., which suffered heavy loss by fire before dawn yesterday. Origin of the blaze is unknown.

## Flames Damage Scale Co.

Core Room, Brass and Aluminum Foundries Guttled by Early Morning Blaze; Cause Undetermined.

## No One Hurt

Company Enlists Help of Outside Pattern Makers to Speed Replacement of Vital Equipment.

A sudden fire of undetermined cause hit the core room of the Howe Scale Co. on Strongs Ave at 3:45 a. m. yesterday and spread to the brass and aluminum foundries, gutting the interior and contents of all three.

No one was injured.

Hundreds of core boxes, indispensable to the operation of the company's three main foundry processes, were destroyed.

The ceiling of the brick structure quickly became a mass of flaming timbers and steel "I" beams were twisted by intense heat as though they were hairpins.

Off duty firemen from all sections of the city answered the alarm and all available equipment was put into immediate action.

The fire was discovered by Kermit Thomas, a member of the night foundry crew, who noticed smoke pouring into the iron foundry adjacent to the core room.

Only 25 minutes before, the night watchman had made his rounds which took him through the area, and nothing amiss was noted.

Asst. Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean said that four engines responded to the alarm, which summoned every available on duty, off duty and "call" man.

He said his men laid approximately 2000 feet of hose, first using three two-and-a-half inch lines, and later changing to two inch-and-a-half lines.

Chief Bean said help received from the five city police officers who were on hand from the beginning was of great assistance until the extra firemen arrived to complete the emergency crew.

The fire was brought under control about 5 a. m. and the last engine returned to the station at 6:17 a. m.

Although the extent of the damage has not yet been determined and officials were unable to estimate the dollar loss, about 125 employees were thrown out of work temporarily by the fire.

John G. Fenton, vice president of production, said that all but 40 of those idled will resume work on a temporary basis today.

He said it was a tough break for the company, which, although covered by insurance, was just getting started on a good business recovery after a slack period.

The foundry began a four-day week during the first week in April after being on three days since November, 1953.

As fast as repairs can be made to the damaged building and new core boxes can be made available, others will be recalled to service, he said.

Clean up work was started immediately upon clearance by the Fire Department, and by last night much progress had been made toward dumping the debris and making way for repair crews to begin work.

It may be a matter of several days, said Fenton, before the clean-up can be completed.

It is also problematical, he said, as to how long it will be before enough core boxes can be made available to put the foundries back on a normal schedule.

Much depends on the ability of the company to enlist help from outside skilled pattern makers he added. Fenton emphasized everything possible is being done to prevent work stoppage.

The iron foundry which is in the adjacent building, and was not touched by the fire, will be in operation today on a limited scale and will continue to work in proportion to the availability of new core boxes.

Although the iron foundry turns out 90 per cent of the total foundry work, it depends, as do the brass and aluminum foundries, on the supply of core boxes produced in the gutted core room.

A core box is the technical name for the first mold used in the manufacture of gray iron, aluminum and bronze castings which go into the many different sizes and types of scales produced by Howe Scale.

The firm, one of the leaders in the country, ranges in its output from small counter and portable scales to motor truck scales and railroad scales weighing upwards of 100 tons per section.

After sand has been compressed into shape in the core box, it is baked in the huge oven and becomes the mold from which the final casting is shaped.

Fenton expressed the gratitude of the company to firemen for their "usual excellent job" of getting to the fire fast and in keeping the flames from spreading.



## Storeroom Is Hit by Blaze

Fire at Fairgrounds Market Is Discovered by Barrett; Threatens Home.

A storeroom and its contents were considered a total loss yesterday by owners of the Fairgrounds Fruit Market at 158 S. Main St. after a fire Saturday at 10:27 p. m. sent four engines and a service truck there to fight flames threatening both the market and an adjoining house.

Officer Neville J. Barrett, on a nightly patrol of the area, first noticed the blaze coming from the rear of the building.

He called in a warning by radio to the police station, which notified firemen. Barrett then rushed to tell personnel in the market, who were preparing to close.

Firemen kept the fire confined to the 12-foot square storage room and the surrounding area.

Flames from the market threatened the home of Mrs. Josephine S. Avey of 160 S. Main St., but firemen kept the brick building from suffering little damage other than a scorched cornice and a melted eaves-spout.

Firemen used 800 feet of hose and a booster tank.

Firemen used a smoke ejector to clear the market after the fire had been quenched.

Mrs. Guido Forte of Fair Haven, who with her husband is a joint owner of the stand, said yesterday that a fireproof tin wall and an asbestos roof, separating the market from the storage room and a three-room apartment, kept flames from sweeping through the whole building.

Mrs. Forte said that the storage room contained a refrigeration compressor, which was completely destroyed, fruit baskets, tables, more than three hundred burlap bags and other items used in the business.

She listed smoke and water damage as considerable to the apartment, particularly to the sitting room and the bathroom, whose walls were common to the storage room.

There was little damage done to the market except for the spoilage of a few fruit items, Mrs. Forte added.

Neither fire officials nor the owners of the stand were able to explain the cause of the fire.

NOVEMBER 13, 1955

## Car Ruined In Fire Scorching Large Garage

Fire ruined a 1955 sedan and badly scorched the interior of a two-car garage at the home of Robert D. Smith of 2 Billings Ave. last night.

Firemen estimated damage at several thousand dollars.

The blaze filled the two-stall front part of the garage when firemen arrived after an alarm at 9:09 p. m. in two trucks.

Going to work on the fire with two boosters, the fire-fighters called out another truck after their arrival to lay a line from a hydrant.

The rear section, partitioned off for storage of furniture, toys and equipment used in Smith's oil business, was not touched by fire, and house, 25 feet away, was not threatened, firemen said.

A stove near the partition was believed the cause of the fire, although how the blaze started was not determined.

Smith had been working in the garage about an hour earlier. The fire was discovered from the house.

Firemen returned to the station at 10:17 p. m.

FEBRUARY 25, 1956

## Blaze Ruins Garage Shop

Brown, Crippled by Arthritis, Loses Dorr Dr. Building, Tools and Car.

Fire yesterday destroyed the two-car garage at 281 Dorr Dr. of George Brown, who has slowly built up a car-repair business despite crippling arthritis during the past few years.

Brown, 52, crawled into the smoke-filled garage to rescue one car which he backed through a closed door. Its windows and paint were blistered by the heat.

Another car and all his tools and equipment were destroyed in the flames.

The fire broke out in unknown manner shortly after noon after Brown had gone into his house for lunch. He looked out the window to see smoke pouring from the frame garage.

Running out, Brown opened one door and was met by a blast of smoke. He crawled over to the best of the two cars, got inside and backed it through the half of the door that was still fastened shut. He was unable to re-enter to get the other car.

Rutland firemen brought two pumpers and the service car to the scene, but the flames were visible from the River St. bridge and the garage couldn't be saved. Firemen laid a small line to a hydrant, put the fire out and protected nearby buildings.

Brown worked in this area as a mechanic and sawmill employee until about two years ago when his arthritis became bad. Several years before that he had built a small home at 281 Dorr Dr. with help from members of his family. He also built the garage in which he began to build up a repair business. A neighbor said yesterday he was "a mighty good hand with an automobile."

Mrs. Brown has been working in the housekeeping department at Rutland Hospital. She said yesterday loss of the garage, in which her husband would sometimes work as late as midnight, was a hard blow to the family. They have one young daughter.

Brown and several neighbors picked through the ruins late yesterday, getting out a few tools that could be salvaged. Brown had a complete set of garage tools in the structure. He was about to sell the automobile which was burned.

"I guess we'll try to rebuild," he said. The garage was covered by a little insurance.

## Fire Destroys Big Barn On Chaffee Farm

Cattle, Chickens, Hay Lost in Blaze at Height of Electrical Storm.

Bolt Believed Cause

The large barn on the old Chaffee farm, owned by Rutland Hospital and occupied by Lewis S. Hance at 277 Stratton Rd. was destroyed by fire during the height of a severe electrical storm which struck the city, shortly before 1 a. m. today.

Four calves, one sheep, a GMC truck and a large number of chickens were destroyed along with several tons of new-mown hay as flames totally destroyed the wooden structure.

During the height of the blaze, Mrs. Gertrude Hance, wife of the occupant of the farm, collapsed and firemen administered first aid with the resuscitator. She was revived and returned to bed.

Hance told firemen he was asleep when the blaze started. He said he believed it was ignited by lightning striking the building as he was awakened by a loud crash and looked out to see flames starting to flick out of the barn.

Within a few minutes the fire had spread throughout the structure and the glow cast upon leaden skies attracted hundreds of motorists who choked highways in all directions leading to the blaze. The fiery glow could be seen throughout the city.

Traffic was so congested several firemen, headed for the blaze in the department's jeep, were stranded on Allen St.

One of the Fire department trucks, Engine 1, headed back to the station got off on a soft shoulder on Stratton Rd. and became bogged down.

The telephone company reported at 2 a. m. today that all toll circuits between Rutland and Middlebury, Rutland and Bellows Falls and Rutland and Ludlow were knocked out by the storm.

The wire chief also said between 30 and 40 lines were out in Middlebury, about 100 out in Rutland and service was slightly disrupted in Brandon.



Herald Photo—Merusi

Within the brief space of a half hour only the shell of the barn on the old Chaffee farm on Stratton Rd. remained after fire, believed to have started by lightning, broke out shortly before 1 a. m. today. Four calves, one sheep, a truck and new mown hay were lost. The property is owned by Rutland Hospital and occupied by Lewis S. Hance.

## Fire Damages State Barn

Chief Koltonski's 'Nose for Smoke' Leads Him to Riverside Blaze.

Fire Chief Alfred J. Koltonski's practiced nose for smoke was right on the mark yesterday.

The fire chief smelled smoke as he was driving down Pierpoint Ave. about 1:50 p. m. yesterday. Then he saw it—flames shooting from the window and cupola of a big barn situated about 100 yards north of the Riverside Reformatory.

The fire chief called in apparatus by radio and at the same time gave instructions for laying a line from the hydrant at Pierpoint Ave. at State St.

The fire, apparently started by boys, was put out quickly after it started in hay on the second floor and raked up the north wall and out the roof.

The old stone-and-wood structure is part of the reformatory plant and has not been used for some years. Miss Helen M. Koltonski, superintendent, who, incidentally is the chief's sister, said she remembers when it was actively used as part of the Riverside farm.

In recent years boys have used it for a hangout and the structure suffered considerably. All windows and most of the doors are out but the big building is solid with heavy stone walls and big beams. There was no estimate of the loss.

Miss Koltonski said occasionally boys would get up in the cupola and a call would have to be made to state police to get them down.

Some lumber stored in the barn appeared to be little damaged. Some house furnishings and appliances were stored on the ground floor of the building by the Grand Furniture Co. There was moderate damage, according to the company.

## Fire Doused By Sprinkler

Serious Damage Is Averted at Grimm Co.; Small Blaze in Park St. School.

A serious fire was averted by a sprinkler system yesterday morning, after sparks from a soft coal flare-back which had apparently smoldered for hours flared up in the basement of G. H. Grimm Co. on Pine St., manufacturers of maple sugar making equipment.

The fire was discovered at 5:41 a. m. by Special Officer Ralph Muscatello of the Rutland police, who heard an alarm ringing while making a routine police box call at the corner of West and Pine Sts.

Asst. Fire Chief Ralph Bean said the fire probably originated Tuesday night when the furnace was stoked for the night.

Sparks apparently lodged on a 10- by 12-inch ceiling beam in the basement, he said, then spread to the first floor joists and flooring before becoming hot enough to set off the sprinkler system.

Water from the two opened sprinklers kept the fire under control to the extent that it did not get sufficiently hot to set off adjacent sprinklers, and the automatic alarm attracted the police officer's attention.

The Fire department extinguished the flames, which had been confined by the sprinklers to a small area in the basement ceiling and the floor of the first story, before much damage had been done, although considerable smoke spread throughout the entire three-story building. It was necessary to use several smoke ejectors and two booster lines.

A small fire in the basement of the Park St. School occurred at 9:40 a. m. yesterday, and was extinguished by the school principal, Raymond J. Messer, after a small hole had been burned through a wall partition.

Firemen, who were called as a precautionary measure, said the fire had been caused by a range used in the hot lunch program, which had been located too near the wall.

The school building was completely remodeled last year at a cost of more than \$150,000.



# Fire Hits Ford Barn

Large Crowd Drawn to Blaze at Baptist Pastor's Garage on E. Center St.

A fire in a two-story garage-storage building at 19 E. Center St., at the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Harry G. Ford brought firefighters and swarms of onlookers to the scene Saturday.

The probable cause, said firemen yesterday, was children with matches.

The Rev. Mr. Ford, pastor of the Baptist Church, was out of town and his wife was in the kitchen shortly after 5 p.m. when a strange man burst in shouting, "Lady, your garage is on fire."

Mrs. Ford rushed to the phone but someone else had spotted smoke coming from the garage and had given the alarm an instant or two sooner.

By the time firemen arrived brown smoke was pouring from the upper sections of the structure, which is about 50 feet in back of the house. With the aid of neighborhood children the Ford youngsters got out a canoe.

Not making any headway with a booster hose provided by two fire engines at the first call, the department set up a whistle alarm and brought two more engines and a crowd of special firefighters into action.

Two 2½-inch hoses within 30 minutes drowned the blaze. Firemen were hampered in reaching the fire in the east end of the building by a false ceiling which had to be hacked away.

For a half-dozen youngsters the high point of the battle came when they were enlisted to throw rocks at a window too high for the firemen to reach with pikes or axes. At the first hint for aid the small fry picked up rocks and satisfied hidden desires by bombarding the window glass.

Nothing valuable was in the building, said Mrs. Ford.

"But my skis and jackknives are all up there," said one of the Ford boys. They sustained only a smoking and soaking.

While the operator of a Massachusetts hay truck was in the diner, a prankster set his loaded vehicle afire early yesterday morning. Crews were called to the Mid Way Diner on S. Main St. at 5:12 a.m. The blaze was confined to two bails of hay on the rear of the truck.

An awning fire at Jean's Beauty Salon at 126 Merchants Row was put out quickly by firemen of Engine 3 at 1:13 p.m. yesterday. Firemen said the blaze was probably caused by a cigarette. A ten inch hole in the cloth was the only damage.

# Orin A. Thomas Barn Levelled By Night Fire

A fire of unknown origin at Orin A. Thomas' Cedarvale Dairy farm on Pittsford Rd. early yesterday destroyed a machinery storage shed. In addition, a 1933 convertible, two heavy farm trucks, several thousand waxed milk containers and various farm implements were lost. Thomas estimated the total damage at \$25,000.

The shed was discovered blazing strongly and Merritt Thomas called the Rutland Fire Dept. about 3 a.m. Two engines of the Rutland department and one from Pittsford responded.

The firemen's speedy work saved two nearby main barns, a creamery building, a dairy bar, and the house of Orin Thomas Jr.

There was no electric wiring or hay in the shed and the cause of the fire is unknown. After the fire had grown to considerable proportions, the gas tank of the car owned by William Thomas exploded.

# Fire Guts Living Room In Home of Mrs. Jenney

A living room on the northeast corner of the home of Mrs. Edward B. Jenney at 11 Washington St. was completely gutted and smoke and heat damage caused to other parts of the house when fire broke out in a dayenport at 11:46 p.m. last night.

Smoke from the blazing overstuffed furniture awoke Mrs. Jenney on the second floor. She made her way downstairs and called the fire department.

Firemen, who would not estimate the damage, said the blaze was caused by careless smoking.

On May 28, 1952, Mrs. Jenney, former school board member, suffered second degree burns and smoke inhalation when fire broke out in the bedroom of her granddaughter and Mrs. Jenney, not knowing the young girl had left the room, went to her rescue.

# Fire Causes \$5,000 Loss

Flames Gut Home Off Lincoln Ave.; Brothers, One 80, Flee in Shirtsleeves.

Flames gutted a Lincoln Ave. home early last evening, destroying the furnishings and clothing of the occupants.

Nate R. Moore, 80, and his brother, Claude G. Moore, 60, stood in borrowed coats and hats, after fleeing in shirtsleeves and watched the fire race through their home at 267 Lincoln Ave.

Loss of the six-room shingled dwelling was estimated by owner Leo Odett of Chittenden as approximately \$5,000. He reported that about half the loss was covered by insurance.

George N. Davis, who lives in back of the Moore home about 120 yards off of Lincoln Ave., saw the blaze through the window of his home and turned in the alarm.

Davis stated that he was watching television when suddenly the set began to flicker violently and his dog began to bark outside.

He went to the window and saw flames streaming up the south side of the Moore house.

Claude Moore stated that he was sitting in the living room at the north end of the house when he suddenly saw "a light like fire" coming up through the register.

He and his brother rushed from the house and the fire spread so quickly that they were unable to get back in for their coats. Claude attempted but was turned back by the smoke.

Two engines were dispatched by the fire department at 6:13 p.m. At 6:18 a whistle alarm was sounded calling in 10 call men and the off duty firemen.

The flaming house was only a few feet from the office building of the Roving Lumber Co. and close by were piles of drying lumber. Firemen managed to keep the fire confined to the Moore house and no other damage was reported.

Claude Moore stated that he believed that the fire started in an oil heater in the cellar. There was a furnace, but it had not been in use for three weeks. The house was heated by stoves upstairs.

The brothers have lived in the house for 15 years. In April of 1935 the house and the adjacent lumber mill was sold to Odett by the Moore brothers. Since that time they have rented the house and Claude has continued in the lumber business on the Chittenden Rd.

The furnishings in the house were owned by the Moores.

The flames roaring up the side of the house and streaming from the cupolas brought throngs of Rutlanders to the scene.

To prevent traffic from hindering firemen police were posted at Field and Lincoln Aves. and at N. Main St. to divert cars.

The fire was completely out by 7:30 p.m. Inspection revealed that all of the belongings of the brothers had been destroyed by fire or water.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Wilson of 244 Lincoln Ave. took the Moore brothers into their home for the night.



Wind-fanned flames which gave the effect of a Northern Lights celestial display raze the storehouse of the Union Furniture Co. on S. Main St., at a loss of \$20,000.

# Blaze Causes \$20,000 Loss

Storehouse Full of Furniture Left Charred Hulk; Started From Trash Fire.

A storehouse of the Union Furniture Co., 162 S. Main St., went up in flames with a loss of about \$20,000 late yesterday afternoon.

Filled with new furniture of all kinds, the converted barn was turned into a huge bonfire visible all over that end of the city.

The 40-foot long frame structure, with two floors packed with furniture and an empty attic, blazed itself into a charred hulk, casting off enough heat and sparks to spell real trouble for other buildings in almost any other area.

The structure was located about 100 yards behind the Union Furniture showroom on S. Main St., and at the southern edge of Buffum's Lot.

The wind blew most of the sparks and heat toward the big meadow, but the Meadowbrook roller skating rink to the northwest received some sparks.

Rutland firemen, in response to a two-alarm box call, hit the big blaze with water from two lines laid about 400 yards from the corner of S. Main and Park Sts.

Firemen said the fire started from burning of trash 50 feet from the warehouse. The wind apparently carried an ember to the storehouse, they said.

A cold, steady rain fell during the fire, but failed to keep hundreds of spectators from the scene. Firemen laid on the wet ground to direct the hoses and get as near the fire as possible.

A telephoned alarm by an unknown person reached the Fire Department at 4:32 p.m.

When firemen reached the scene and saw the size of the fire they radioed back to have a box rung up. The box was No. 31.

The release alarm was sounded at 6:07 p.m., but the blaze had been knocked down long before that.

Norman H. Lash, furniture company spokesman, said the storehouse contained a variety of case goods, upholstered furniture, mattresses, springs and "a little of everything."

The storehouse was one three owned by the company. Another for new furniture is located on School St. and a brick building behind the showroom main building stored merchandise which had been sold. No furniture of the sold category was burned, Lash said.

The "barn" was converted for storage use about four years ago and was formerly a barn of the Chaffee estate.

The fire was the first major one in Rutland in a number of months.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski directed work of the fire department force of 28 regular men and eight call men at the scene. The full department turns out in response to a box call.

While two city firefighting crews were still at the warehouse, firemen were called on another alarm in the downtown business section.

At 6:03 p.m. Engines 4 and 2 and the ladder truck sped to Segale's Restaurant at 31 Center St. They found ammonia fumes caused by a leak in the Restaurant's refrigerating system. No damage was caused, firemen said.

Another capricious refrigerating unit acted up at 6:35 p.m. at the Donald Loseby home at 73 E. Washington St. Chief Koltonski and another firemen arrived at the residence by car to find again there was no fire. Ammonia fumes there were so strong Engine 1 was brought to the scene. A smoke blower was used in the cellar to disperse the fumes and the unit was removed from the house. Chief Koltonski said there was no damage.

# Scouts Gather Round the Fire At Own Rooms

There was no Boy Scout meeting for Troop 14 last night.

But there was more than enough excitement for the Scouts. Four fire engines raced to the troop's clubrooms at 33 Washington St. for a fire there.

Heading for the meeting was "Corky" Dodge, 11, of 44 Morse Pl. Nearing the two-story wooden barn used as headquarters, Corky smelled smoke and heard flames.

He rushed to the nearby American Legion Club, sponsors of the Troop and owners of the barn. A steward notified firemen and they sped to the scene at 6:34 p.m.

The fire was confined to the clubrooms and at no point threatened a home owned by Mrs. Ella M. Tuttle, separated from the barn by less than three feet, or the Legion home itself.

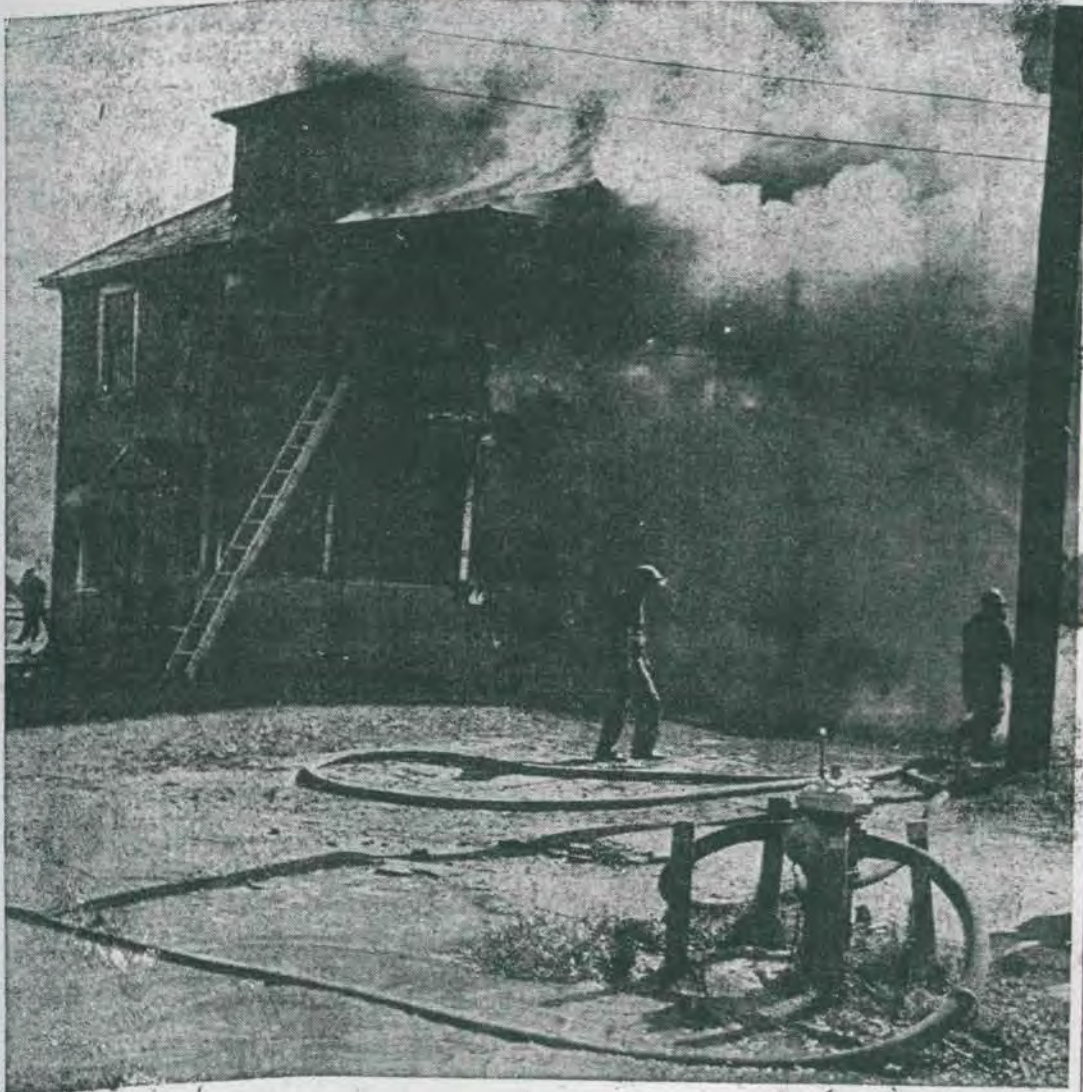
Firemen said the cause of the fire was a kerosene oil burner. Apparently while the rooms were being heated for the meeting, the carburetor was burned off and a full stream of kerosene was fed to the burner and the wooden floor.

The fire went up through the ceiling and into the partitions. Most of the blaze, firemen said, was confined to the area about the space heater.

Excited groups of Scouts watched proceedings, often getting in the way of the crews. Leader Bill Morreau of West Rutland arrived and rescued a drenched troop flag.

The blaze was extinguished by 7:02 p.m. Firemen said damage was not heavy and that the barn was covered by insurance.





Smoke rolls from Allen St. house where yesterday the three-year-old son of Mrs. Arthur Sumner was trapped and perished. In right foreground is damaged hydrant, showing pool of water that poured from it affecting the pressure. (Other Pictures Pages 12, 13).

## 3-Year-Old Boy Perishes in Fire

**Archie Walker Dies as Flames Consume Allen St. Apartment House.**

A chubby three-year-old boy died amid flames which mushroomed through an apartment at 30 Allen St. yesterday morning. Eight other members of the three families living at the house—including four babies—got to safety, leaving all their belongings to the mercy of the flash fire.

Archie Walker Jr., 3, perished in the bedroom of a three-room downstairs apartment minutes after his mother, Mrs. Arthur Sumner, had gone upstairs to visit neighbors.

A space heater in the room next to the boy exploded, firemen said. As the frantic mother beat at the side of the house in an effort to reach her child the whole building was enveloped in flames and smoke. By the time firefighters summoned by a general alarm were in action the two-story structure was gutted.

Mr. and Mrs. Sumner, with Mrs. Sumner's two children by a previous marriage, moved into the three-room apartment on the west side of the house Monday. Sumner is employed at the Adams & Noe Plumbing Co. The house is owned by Ernest Ruppe of 26 Howard Ave.

Archie was in bed at the southwest corner of the house. The space heater was in the middle room, which served as a kitchen. His older sister, Christine, 8, was at the Park St. School.

In the east side downstairs lived Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kenyon and their two small children. The upstairs apartment was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kallahan and their baby daughter, and Mrs. Gary Littlejohn and her months-old girl.

About 11 a.m. yesterday Mrs. Sumner went upstairs to visit Mrs. Kallahan. The men of the family were all away.

Suddenly a heavy thud shook the house. Oily smoke poured upstairs through the flooring and wallboards. Mrs. Kenyon downstairs said she saw flames through the partitions almost immediately.

Fire officials said the exploding heater probably sprayed kerosene and fumes through all three rooms, setting them ablaze in a flash.

Keith Morehouse, a salesman from Springfield, Mass., was on his way out of the Vermont Television Shop next door when he saw the smoke. He called Don Johnson of the television company, who telephoned the fire department.

Johnson said the west side of the house became a mass of flames in the short time it took him to make the call. Moses Colley, Richard Scruton and Francis Lethbridge, workers at the nearby Donahue Salvage and Supply Co., raced to help Johnson and Mrs. Sumner, who was screaming for her son.

Mrs. Sumner and the men tried the front door and were driven back by smoke and flames. There is no back door to the Sumner apartment.

The mother ran around to the side of the house and beat against the kitchen window and the wall, beyond which her son lay, slashing her hands and arms as the window shattered. The men said a sheet of flame swept toward her, and they pulled her to safety.

By the time the firefighters were on the scene the entire house was a mass of flame. The other occupants had tumbled to safety, the women carrying the babies.

The flame was so hot firemen were unable to use the hydrant directly in front of the place. They raced up Allen St. to a hydrant 800 feet beyond and unrolled a hose line to the scene.

It was probably just as well they did. Last spring the hydrant in front of the house was damaged, probably when a vehicle ran into it. When firefighters finally opened it most of the water poured through a leak below the hose connections. Pressure at the other hydrant was good, however.

The hydrants are checked occasionally in the winter, but apparently this one hadn't been looked at during the summer.

Fire spouting from the windows and eating the asphalt shingles on the outside of the house kept even firemen with smoke-masks from getting inside. They played three lines of hose on the house.

Mrs. Sumner collapsed. She was treated at Rutland Hospital for hysteria and shock. When firemen finally forced their way inside a half hour after the fire started they found Archie's charred body lying face down with his arms outstretched in the remains of his bed.

Ruppe, the owner, told fire officials later the house itself had been redecorated before the Sumners moved in. There was partial insurance on the house, but practically none on the personal belongings. The survivors were staying with relatives last night.

The body was removed to the Aldous Funeral Home. Archie was born Sept. 21, 1953, in Troy, N. Y., where his father, Archie Walker Sr., still lives. In addition to his parents and sister, he leaves a grandmother, Mrs. Grace Dutton of Rutland, and aunts and uncles.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, Deputy State Fire Inspector Charles Walker of Rutland and Assistant Fire Chief Frank H. Seward investigated.

As lines of autos driven by the curious splashed through the wet street past the smoking ruins, a fireman said:

"What a hell of a way to mark Fire Prevention Week."

JULY 23, 1955.



Fire? Fire? Well, Fireman Martin Kelly thought the 100-plus thermometer was just too much to stand. He squirted that ol' thermometer in real fireman-fashion. Brought it down to a civilized 96 in the shade.



Call Fireman J. Tilly Ballard places wrapped body of three-year-old fire victim in ambulance.



# Fire Damage Over \$7,500

Storage Building and Garage  
at G. E. Hunt Greenhouse Is  
Wrecked by Flames.

A fire which destroyed a wooden storage and garage building adjoining the G. E. Hunt flower shop and greenhouses on Church St. Saturday, caused damages estimated at \$7,500.

Lawrence E. Hunt, proprietor, said the estimate was a conservative one. He added the concern had insurance.

The fire broke out about 12:30 p. m. Workers at the greenhouse were unaware of the blaze until notified by a nearby resident.

Hunt said a worker rushed to the building to try to remove a 1954 panel delivery truck. Opening the door, he was forced back by a solid wall of flame.

Fire officials said the blaze had gained too much headway before it was noticed and by the time crews arrived the building was a total loss.

Two booster lines were used to combat the fire. One was drawn through the main shop and the men concentrated their effort on keeping the fire from a boiler house and another storage building.

Water and heat, Hunt said, broke approximately 300 panes of glass and destroyed about \$2,000 worth of azalea plants ready for sale. Several hundred strings of amilax used for Easter bouquets, were ruined.

Firemen said the storage building contained, besides the truck, a large quantity of cardboard and papers used for packing, clay and plastic flower pots, boxes of glass panes and gardening materials.

Crowds of curious gathered about the scene. Traffic between North and Crescent Sts. was detoured.

Neither Hunt nor firemen were able to determine the cause of the fire. The proprietor said he had passed through the building, as had several other employees, shortly before it broke out.

The storage unit had a fireproof floor and about 10,000 tulip bulbs in the cellar were believed to be undamaged though covered six inches deep by water.

Employees in the shop after the initial excitement continued their duties while firemen were working at the south end of the premises.

"We had orders to get out," Hunt said, "there wasn't anything we could do but keep out of the way. So, we went on with our work."

At 9:02 p. m. firemen were called to extinguish a chimney fire in the apartment home of F. B. Lynch of 52 Cherry St. They said it was caused by an overheated space heater but no damage resulted.

# Fire Damages Two Cars In Hurley Garage

Two 1951 sedans were damaged in a fire which blackened a concrete garage occupied by Hurley Bros. on 18 Chaplin Ave. at 12:59 p. m. yesterday, according to the city fire department.

Miller Bros. Inc., a glove factory on the second floor of the building, was flooded with smoke but otherwise undamaged, firemen said. The firemen were unable to estimate the damage.

The fire apparently started when sparks from a welding torch ignited fumes coming from a leaking gasoline tank causing a minor explosion, according to the firemen.

Firemen worked for about an hour with booster pumps, fire extinguishers and smoke ejectors.

Yesterday's call was the 350th alarm in the fire department's fiscal year which started last July 1. Firemen may break the 1940 record of 355 alarms this year, Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said.

# Scores See Smoky Fire

Garage and Chemical Storage  
Building on State St. Gives  
Firemen Hard Fight.

A spectacular fire which sent volumes of smoke rising above the city attracted scores of autoists to 190 State St. late yesterday afternoon and did serious damage to a large old barn used as a garage and storage building by Wilson's Fast Freight, Carrier Bleach and Vermont Chemical Co.

Smouldering chemicals, furniture and paper cartons emitted noxious fumes which gave the Rutland Fire Department a difficult battle of an hour and a half.

The building is owned by Mrs. Fannie Izenburg and leased to the commercial firms.

Chief Alfred Koltonski said the blaze apparently started in the southeast corner occupied by Carrier Bleach, a firm owned by Clark H. Mason of 188 North Church St. An explosion soon afterwards spread the flames throughout the building.

Cause of the fire was not determined immediately, the chief said.

Firemen were called about 5:30 p. m. by a neighbor, Mrs. Louis Clifford of 195 State St., and Engines 2, 3 and 4 responded. As the first truck drew up, a second explosion blew out the windows in the front of the building, including the glass panes in a half-lowered garage door which blocked attempts to remove a truck belonging to the chemical firm.

While police redirected heavy late-afternoon traffic which impeded the movement of fire trucks, firemen directed three two-and-a-half-inch high-pressure streams of water through the windows.

Flames near the truck which could not be moved were wet down in time to save it from serious damage. A false ceiling in the two-story structure hampered firemen's efforts to break through the roof to attack the flames from above. The chemical smoke also proved a serious inconvenience to the men on the roof.

Fire trucks made a detour on the way back to the firehouse to answer a summons to the Wheeler Williams restaurant at 37 N. Main St. shortly before 7 p. m. A motor had burned out on an oil burner. Damage was minor.

# Fire Damages Building At 339 West St.

A fire broke out in a small wooden structure used as a repair shop, adjoining a cinder block building at 399 West St. yesterday at 11:20 a. m. but city firemen reported the blaze was confined to the shed itself.

Fire authorities attributed the cause of the blaze to a pile of burning newspapers some 16 feet from the attached building. Blazing scraps, crews said, were blown against the shed and flames licked their way into the eaves.

Using booster lines, fire crews put out the fire within 40 minutes. The shed's interior was badly damaged, but firemen obtained no official estimate of the loss.

The premises are owned by Louis Ricci.

# Fire Spreads From Dump To Field in Rutland Town

A fire spread from a roadside dump to a field and wooded area near the Pinnacle Ridge Dairy in northern Rutland Town yesterday afternoon.

Before the flames were out view-ers as far away as Clarendon saw the towering column of smoke. Pack pumps welded by crews organized by Fire Warden George J. Livak, aided by a Rutland Fire Department booster tank, brought things under control in about two hours.

The dump, where the fire started the whole affair, is on the so-called Corn Hill Rd. leading from Grove St. to Pittsford.



Herald Photo—Merusi  
JUNIOR FIREMAN: Unidentified boy, intrigued by fire which yesterday damaged a storage building on State St., owned by Mrs. Fannie Izenberg, kneels on hose as firemen pour water on the structure.

# Fire Quenched Speedily At Loretto Home

Fire yesterday threatened the Loretto Home, housing 41 elderly Catholic women, but quick action on the part of city firemen prevented what they said could have been a "major" tragedy.

While the women, the staff of six sisters and their chaplain, the Rev. Raymond E. Blais, were at Mass in the chapel on the first floor of the building, fire broke out in the kitchen in the northeast corner of the basement. A sister first noticed smoke pouring from the woodwork.

Firemen were called to 59 Meadow St. home at 7:33 a. m. Two booster lines were used to put out the fire, which had spread into partitions above the kitchen range.

Smoke filled the kitchen and rose into some of the upper rooms. Asst. Chief Ralph R. Bean said the blaze was caused by an improperly installed vent pipe leading from a gas-operated toaster. Heat from the pipe had kindled the woodwork.

The toaster, according to one of the sisters, had been in use at least three years.

A fire stop in the wall between the basement and the first ground story, Bean stated, prevented flames from running up through the four-storied brick and wood structure.

"Firemen were forced to rip away a cawling above the stove to get at the fire. A section of ceiling was also ripped away and the blaze was confined to a small area."

Officials at the home said no official estimate of damage had been made last night.

A few women at the home were slightly upset by the arrival of the two engines and the new ladder truck said a sister, but on the whole everything remained orderly.

"We had served breakfast as usual," said the sister, "but with only one difference. The ladies had untoasted bread."

# 2 Overcome In Scale Fire

James Gleason, 21, Hospital-  
ized After Blaze in Freight  
Dept. Warming Hut.

Two men were overcome by smoke, one requiring hospitalization, in a smoky fire in the Howe Scale Co. freight house yesterday afternoon.

The two were James Gleason, 21, of 15 Lincoln Ave., reported in good condition at Rutland Hospital late yesterday, and F. Walter Filloe of Pittsford, who was treated at the company first aid station.

The two were overcome as they fought with hand extinguishers a blaze in a warming hut in the center of the long frame freight house. It apparently started from an electric heater in the hut during the lunch hour. Gleason and Filloe, both checkers at the plant, were among the first to try to halt the blaze with fire extinguishers as heavy smoke cut visibility practically to zero.

An automatic sprinkler was set off and the water put out the fire. It also drenched dozens of crates pieces all ready for shipment, and flooded much of the building with water about an inch deep.

A company spokesman said damage was very slight, that he didn't believe the water had soaked into the crates, some of which later were blocked up from the floor.

Howe employees were sweeping the water out as soon as the fire was out and smoke ejectors had brought visibility back.

The fire started during a short period when nobody was apparently in that section of the freight department where finished scales are loaded into railroad cars. The hut is a small wooden affair. The blaze was noticed about the same time by several men in an adjoining department. About the same time the sprinkler went off and an alarm was tripped. A telephone call was made to the fire department which sent two pumps and the ladder truck.

Firemen knowing the freight house was the scene of the trouble rolled right to the scene and two firemen ran into the building carrying a booster hose. The smoke was so heavy that nothing could be seen but the fire had been snuffed out. Thirteen sprinkler heads were brought into operation from the heat. An area about 30 feet square of the overhead ceiling and beams was scorched.



# General Alarm Sounded for Fire At City Dump; 8 Blazes Are Fought

(Continued from Page One)

## Fire Chief, Mayor Declare Emergency Exists While Dry Weather Continues.

transmitter tower. Another such fire hit along Dartmouth St. at 3:40 p.m.

The larger fire was moving from the dump south east. The intense heat drove the firemen out of the woods several times.

Carrying 45-pound pack pumps the fire fighters were forced to leap from log to log to get at the blaze. Fireman Bernard Kelly missed his footing on a log and suffered a scorched right hand as he pitched into burning cinders.

The crews were aided by neighborhood youths who carried pumps into the sector. Radio men sent frantic calls back to headquarters for more aid.

About 4:02 p.m. desk man Martin Kelly obtained help from the Public Works Dept. Thirteen men were deployed to the blaze which was traveling south in a valley parallel to Gleason Rd. and later turned southeast toward the old "Combination" Pond.

Unable to stop the fire at its head, firemen moved along its edges, controlling it as best they could. A path through the tangled logs offered some access to the blaze.

A new danger arose as the flames shifted eastward and headed for the residences of Nelson Young and Joseph Bratu, located on a short side road off the Gleason Rd. The fire crept to within 300 feet of the homes, the families later reported.

Men arrived back from the Creek Rd. fire at 4:12 p.m. and gave additional support to both the Strong's Ave. and Center St. stations. Relief men were sent up to the dump fire.

Both stations were crippled about a half hour after 3:40 p.m. All that remained was a truck and one driver at each station and the desk man.

Following the Dartmouth St. alarm, Marty Kelly said, "From here on in all we can do is take down the locations of new fires and tell callers we'll do the very best we can."

Eating a path a quarter mile long the dump fire moved southward into the woodland "jungle". Its width covered some 1,000 feet. An additional 100 feet of hose was sent to the scene.

Before 5 p.m. the crews had the initial blaze pretty well under control and had stopped it before it reached Moon Brook. There was still plenty of fire fighting work to be done and the men did not leave the area until about 7 p.m.

Twenty-five minutes later, a new call came in. The men returned

again to the station about 8:15 p.m. but the blaze broke out within another hour, this time lashed by a strong breeze.

The general alarm was sent out at 10:45 p.m.

Even before the other dump fire by the Novitiate was put out for the first time, the haggard men went out to the Park and Cleveland Aves. intersection for another grass fire.

Easterly Ave. was the scene of a large grass conflagration at 9:35 p.m. which lasted some 20 minutes. Again at 11:30 p.m. a burning tree off the avenue caused a new alarm.

Two grass fires were fought in the early part of the day before the emergency situation arose. One sprang up at 11:39 a.m. by the Highland Ave. and Hillcrest Rd. intersection. The other was by 84 Granger St. at 1:26 p.m.

Following is a list of yesterday's alarms: Highland and Hillcrest at 11:39 a.m.; 84 Granger St. at 1:26 p.m.; City Dump at 2:28 p.m.; Creek Rd. (WSYB) at 3:28 p.m.; Dartmouth St. at 3:40 p.m.; St. Joseph's Novitiate at 6:33 p.m.; City Dump at 7:25 p.m.; Park and Cleveland Aves. at 9:10 p.m.; City Dump at 9:18 p.m.; Easterly Ave. at 9:35 p.m.; City Dump (gen. alarm) at 10:45 p.m.; Easterly Ave. at 11:30 p.m.; St. Joseph's Novitiate at 11 p.m.

Mayor Waterman said, "I agree with Chief Koltonski that we're faced with a very grave emergency, damaging property in many parts of the city and even threatening houses."

"It is so dry in our city that I am joining the chief in an appeal to all citizens to refrain from lighting any sort of fire outside—until we get some rain."

"The situation as described to me seems to be so critical that there is danger of starting fires even from a closed container, as sparks fly out to set off nearby grasses even when the utmost caution is used by the person doing the burning."

APRIL 7, 1957

## Fire Damages Quarters Over Marro's Store

Fire extensively damaged four sleeping rooms and their furnishings over Marro's Store at 266 West St. yesterday afternoon.

Assistant Fire Chief Ralph Bean said the blaze apparently started from a defective oil burner. Firemen were called at 5:36 p.m.

Bean said radiated heat had flaked off wallpaper and paint on walls and ceilings and fire and smoke further damage to the contents of the four rooms. The blaze was extinguished with the aid of a booster line.

The store is owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Marro who occupy the living quarters.

Another weekend fire damaged a partition and dresser in a bedroom of Frank Gould's home on the Post Rd. in Rutland Town. Firefighters went to the scene with a booster hose shortly after 9 a.m. yesterday.

Cause of the fire was undetermined. It was in a partition behind a dresser, which was partly charred, said firemen. When they arrived Gould was pouring water on it, and the fire didn't spread very far.

Saturday, an electric motor in a washing machine burned out at the home of John D. Pisanelli at 55 Pleasant St., bringing firemen to the scene about 2:15 p.m. They reported a good deal of smoke in the house, but no fire damage outside the motor itself.

A false alarm was turned in at 7:32 p.m. from a box at the corner of Meadow and School Sts.

## City Firemen Toil All Day On 14 Alarms

Tinder-Dry Woods, Fields Keep Men Hopping Until Early Today.

### 'Grave Emergency'

The tinder-dry woods and fields around Rutland gave city firemen yesterday the most difficult day they have experienced in many years as 14 alarms for grass and brush fires were sounded during the afternoon and night.

At 10:45 p.m. a general alarm was sounded to call out every available man to fight a raging forest fire near the city dump off Woodstock Ave. It was still out of control early this morning, but firemen believed they had halted its spread.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski (with the concurrence) of Mayor Francis F. Waterman, issued an appeal to all homeowners to refrain from starting any out-of-door fires, even in closed containers.

The fire at the city dump was the most dangerous of the day, and was made more difficult to fight by the fact that numerous other fires throughout the city required the service of firemen at the same time, leaving too few to do an adequate job at the major blaze.

Including the dump fire, eight separate blazes were reported yesterday. The 14 alarms included four for the dump conflagration, two for another dump fire near St. Joseph's Novitiate on Creek Rd., and two for a fire in the meadows off Easterly Ave.

No appreciable rain has fallen in the Rutland area since April 6, and the unusually warm and sunny spring has resulted in exceedingly dangerous fire conditions in the fields surrounding the city.

The unceasing series of alarms had left the regular firemen near exhaustion last evening and all call firemen were summoned to their assistance as the dump fire, driven by a strong southerly wind, flared up again about 7:30 p.m. The fire whistle, signalling 42, which is the main fire house, caused a traffic jam at Merchants Row and Washington St. as hundreds of curious joined the call firemen in a rush to the station.

The fire at the dump broke out first early in the afternoon and spread through about 15 acres of pine and a tangle of down timber remaining from the 1950 hurricane.

Firefighters crashed through a swamp and dense brush to bring it under control, but it soon got out of hand again. Early this morning a swarm of firefighters tumbled with pack pumps and axes through the same tangle in a fourth effort to check the flames.

"We've already used two complete booster tanks on this thing," said one exhausted fireman as he stumbled out of the brush.

A telephone call from Thayer's Woodworking shop on Gleason Rd. first notified the fire-fighters at 2:28 p.m. The crew found more than they could handle when flames roared some 100 feet high as dry brush ignited pine trees.

"If we'd had about a dozen men we could have licked it almost right away," one fireman said on one of the return trips to the station.

But manpower was just not available then. There were crews out fighting a large grass fire started at 1:28 p.m. which swept along the Creek Rd. behind several houses and headed for the WSYB radio

## Grass Fires Season Here

Firemen Answer Total of 26 Alarms Over Weekend; Two Minor Home Blazes.

The grass fire "season" hit a peak during the weekend here, and kept Rutland firefighters on the jump in all directions.

Also on the record for Saturday was a fire at the home of James M. Davine on Clinton Ave., where a partition next to a fireplace caught fire about 11 p.m., and a blaze in a clothes closet at 33 N. Main St., apartment, home of Donald E. DePoy.

But the grass fires just wouldn't simmer down. Between 9 a.m. Saturday and 5:20 p.m. yesterday the pack pumps and hoses were brought into action 26 times. Fireman George Ferguson took a tumble and broke a finger in his right hand when his pack pump landed on top of it.

Yesterday's grass fires were at 353 Stratton Rd., North St. Ext., Town Line Rd. at Killington Ave., 53 Allen St., Belmont Ave., 112 Crescent St., S. Main St. and Marble Ave., 78 Bellevue Ave., 7 Kingsley Ave., 168 South St., 84 Granger St., 407 West St. and 131 Killington Ave., Curtis Ave., northern Meadow St., 45 Park St. and Spruce St.

Saturday's blazes were at Nichols St. and Burnham Ave., 75 Stratton Rd., 38 East St., 144 Forest St., Stratton Rd. at Jackson Ave., 146 Granger St., Curtis Ave., 163 Forest St. and 100 Meadow St.

## Call Out Extra Equipment For Post Street Fire

A hot, smoldering fire in an upstairs apartment of a house at 127 Post St. yesterday brought extra fire equipment charging to the scene as a second-alarm whistle alerted the community.

Although the blaze itself was doused with two booster lines, Rutland firemen who first tried to get into the upstairs apartment of Clifford Johnson's house were driven back by an intense blast of heat.

Fearing the fire might get out of hand, the first-arrivers radioed for more help, and set up the fire-whistle-alarm shortly after 5:30 p.m. By climbing an inside stairwell and breaking through with a ladder outside as well, the firemen managed to shower the three rooms which were on fire. The fire was out by 6:15 p.m.

An amount of furnishings estimated at "several hundred dollars worth" by officials was almost totally wrecked by fire. Fire officials said they understood there was no insurance on the destroyed belongings.

The upstairs apartment is occupied by Johnson's son, James, who told firemen he was away most of the day. His parents reportedly first smelled smoke as they were sitting down to supper.

The cause of the fire was not immediately determined. According to report, fire officials headed by Chief Alfred H. Koltonski will investigate today to determine whether the fire was caused by defective wiring or a flaring oil space heater.

No city was hurt in the blaze.

MARCH 20, 1957

## Two Blazes Halted Early

Boy Spots West St. Fire, Policeman Notes West Rutland One in Good Time.

The Rutland Fire Department gave credit last night to a seven-year-old boy and a police sergeant who separately spotted fires in time so that they could be extinguished before serious damage was done.

David Anoe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Anoe of 133 Maple St. saw rubbish burning in an alley alongside the Tarbell-Watters Co. Inc. at 178 West St. Firemen said the blaze had eaten through the clapboards and was working its way up between partitions.

The three-story frame auto equipment shop was filled with combustible materials, said firemen. It is sandwiched between the California Fruit Market and an unoccupied cement block building.

Firemen said the rubbish pile had been deliberately set afire shortly before 7 p.m.

Sparks from a smoldering bonfire were said to be the cause of a blaze which caused an undetermined amount of damage at a cement and gravel plant in Center Rutland owned by Joseph P. Carrara of Cold River Rd.

Sgt. Charles F. Callahan, on routine patrol noticed the fire from Ripley Rd. He notified police by radio who in turn called firemen at 8:40 p.m. Two booster lines were used to put out the blaze.

The fire began in a boiler room, smoldered through partitions and moved into a "batching" section before it was halted.

## Put Out 14 Grass Fires

City Firemen Kept on Jump During Weekend; Little Damage Reported.

Firemen were called to extinguish 14 grass fires in the city over the weekend, in addition to three other minor blazes, only one of which caused appreciable damage. The unusually dry weather of recent weeks contributed to the frequency of the grass and brush fires. One which got out of control on the Creek Rd. in Rutland Town burned over some 125 acres.

A rubbish fire at Donahue Salvage Supply Co. on 32 Allen St. spread to nearby grass and scrap lumber before it was doused by the city fire department yesterday morning. Firemen reported no damage.

The inside of a convertible owned by Louis Margotti of 79 Plain St. was completely ruined by fire Saturday. Firemen said they believed the fire was set. The car, which was unregistered, was parked on Plain St. Investigation is underway, firemen said.

Firemen were called Saturday to douse a fire started by youngsters in old chairs stored under the porch at Joseph Lemmo home on 54 Cherry St. The chairs were wrecked but no further damage was reported.

Sunday grass fires and their times include: 52 Water St., 10:33 a.m.; 97 River St., 11:10 a.m.; 44 Woodstock Ave., 11:37 a.m.; Post Road, 11:45 a.m.; Rotary Field, 12:07 p.m.; 135 Killington Ave., 7:53 p.m.

A grass fire at 186 Baxter St. yesterday scorched the left front tire of an automobile parked near the field. No further damage was reported by firemen.

Saturday grass fires and their times were: the field in back of the City Dump, 11:21 a.m.; 82 Granger St., 1:07 p.m.; 128 Library Ave., 1:28 p.m.; Dorr Drive, 3:54 p.m.; Curtis Ave. and Stratton Rd., 7:25 p.m.; Butterfly Ave. and Killington Ave., 7:30 p.m.; 158 River St., 8:25 p.m.

APRIL 21, 1957

NOVEMBER 10, 1956.

## Aged South St. Woman Badly Burned at Oven

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Keefe, 83, of 97 South St. was in critical condition last night at Rutland Hospital where she was taken yesterday morning with extensive burns about her entire body.

Members of the family said Mrs. Keefe was standing with her back to the kitchen stove warming herself. The oven door was open and evidently the heating unit ignited her clothing.

A daughter, Mrs. Merle Kelly, with whom Mrs. Keefe makes her home, found the aged woman sitting in a chair, her outer garments burned from her body. Mrs. Keefe had apparently tried to extinguish the flames with blankets. She was removed to the hospital by ambulance. City firemen reported bedding and mattress singed.

While the engines were at the Kelly home, crews were dispatched to 113 Park Ave. for a flooded oil burner in the apartment of John Clifford. The burner extinguished itself before firemen arrived.



## Fire Wrecks Two Rooms

Unexplained Blaze Damages Hayden Home While Workmen Install Gas Lines.

Fire of undetermined origin badly damaged the Douglas Hayden home at 8 Butterfly Ave. yesterday.

Two rooms in the one-story structure were wrecked by the blaze, and two bedrooms and the living room received extensive damage from smoke and water.

At the time of the fire no one was in the house. Hayden was out of the city and his wife was at her work as a telephone operator. Their son Michael, 13, was in the back yard with his next door neighbor Roderick Roberge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice D. Roberge.

At the garage in the rear workmen for Brehmer's Bottled Gas & Appliances, a local firm, were installing pipes from gas tanks nearby.

Firemen said the Brehmer men were running tests on the gas-operated furnace and hot water heater for a permanent installation.

About 4:42 p.m., Mrs. Roberge, preparing supper, glanced out the window. Dense smoke was pouring from the chimney of the Hayden house and flames shooting from the back door.

Mrs. Roberge called firemen. While three engines were rushing to the scene, the workmen played a garden hose on the blaze.

Firemen said the fire apparently started near the heater in a room off the kitchen. Flames charred the walls and peeled plastic from a breakfast set, and intense heat scorched the other rooms.

Two booster lines were laid from the engine to quell the blaze. Firemen reported two small propane gas tanks had been set up in the kitchen for testing purposes, one connected to the furnace, the other to the heater. They did not explode.

Mrs. Hayden said she believed the home was covered by insurance. There was no official estimate of damage.

The home was built in 1951, neighbors said. The Haydens have lived there about three years.

### Your Move

Firemen had little time for playing checkers yesterday.

After fighting the blaze which damaged the Douglas Hayden home at 8 Butterfly Ave., they returned to the station at 5:42 p.m., only to be called to 108 Wales St. less than an hour later to extinguish a chimney fire in an apartment house occupied by Malcolm E. Vincent and Robert J. Mott.

At 8:50 a.m., crews were called to Town Line Rd. to put out burning rags left in the trunk of a sedan owned by Edward Drop and parked in front of his home. The fire appeared to have been deliberately set, they reported, but damage was negligible.

Firemen also went to 36 Meadow St. at 1 p.m. to investigate a flooded oil burner. This blaze extinguished itself.

## Fire Destroys Stickney Barn on N. Main St.

An old barn, now used for storage, at 108 N. Main St. last night went up in flames that were visible to firemen from Washington St. as they rushed to the scene.

Cause of the blaze, which left only charred parts of the walls and roof standing, was undetermined. The barn belonged to William L. Stickney.

Firemen who answered the call at 8:40 p.m. with three trucks and returned at 8:15 p.m. were called out again around 9 p.m. when sparks reappeared in the ruins.



Herald photo—Merust.  
Kneeling fireman observes charred walls and smoke and fire damage done by fire yesterday to one of the rooms in the Douglas Hayden home at 8 Butterfly Ave. Two rooms in the cottage-type house were gutted. Fire cause has not been determined.

RUTLAND DAILY HERALD, MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 16, 1957.



A furnace fire mushroomed through large house at 91 Center St. early Saturday, causing several thousand dollars' damage. Five occupants fled in night clothing. Miss Mary Quigley owns the rooming house, across street from her guest home. A general alarm called out off-duty and volunteer firefighters, as crews battled dense smoke in intense cold.

Herald photo—Merust.

## Fire in Cellar Smudges House On Cottage St.

Smoke billowed out of a cellar and poured through a two-apartment house at 28 Cottage St. yesterday morning, sending regular and off-duty firemen to the scene on the run.

No one was hurt in the fire which started in a storage room in the cellar. An oil can and other objects gave off so much smoke great clouds poured from the cellar window when firemen cracked it.

Fearing the fire might sweep into partitions and also threaten another house close by, firefighters sounded the City Hall fire whistle to call further aid.

But firemen equipped with masks swarmed into the dark smoke-filled cellar and put the fire out before it got much beyond the storeroom.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Poirier and family live downstairs. Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Eddy live upstairs. Chris E. Koutsonikolis of 24 Cottage St. owns the house.

Poirier entered the house from a job in the yard about 9:55 a.m. yesterday, and his wife asked him who could be making all the racket in the basement.

"I heard something down there," she said.

Poirier went to the cellar but catapulted quickly back out as smoke billowed behind him. Mrs. Poirier called the fire station. The connection went dead in the middle of her message. Cause of the fire was undetermined.

JANUARY 20, 1958

## Fumes Fell 7 Firemen

Chief Among Those Affected Fighting Electrical Blaze at Montgomery Ward.

Six firemen and their chief were partially overcome by fumes while fighting an electrical fire in the Montgomery Ward & Co. store on Merchants Row Saturday at 9:58 a.m.

There was little damage, said George K. Schwalm, manager, yesterday. Closed for the remainder of the day after the fire, the store will open for business as usual today.

Treatment for carbon tetrachloride inhalation was given to seven men by Dr. William J. Powers. They were Chief Alfred H. Koltanski, Capt. James Rice and Firemen Arthur Olson, James and Richard Barron, William O'Rourke, and Harland McKirryher.

Capt. Rice, Olson and the Barron brothers were relieved from work for the day and substitute firemen were called in.

The blaze was confined to an area about the main electric entrance in a stock room in back of the basement salesroom. Firemen said the short circuit occurred in a metal conduit as big as a man's arm, which leads to the switchbox. The reverberations were heard all over the store. The short circuit also affected other stores in the block until Central Vermont Public Service Corp. crews cut the connection at the transformer outside.

Employees in the stockroom used a tetrachloride extinguisher. The fire seemed to die out for a minute but then flared up again. When firemen arrived they worked with air packs to put out the blaze. The store was closed until electrical repairs could be made and the chemical fumes cleared away.

"The very resourceful work of the firemen, in addition to the quick action of the stockroom help, kept things from getting worse," said Schwalm.

No stock was lost nor was there water or smoke damage, according to the manager.



FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 30, 1937.



Herald photo—Merusi.

Firemen rip walls from hay-filled small shed near the sheep barns on the Rutland Fairgrounds after extinguishing yesterday's blaze which if not discovered in time could have spread through a row of buildings to the 4-H structure, large white building pictured in background.

## Fire in Shack At Fairgrounds Causes Scare

An old fireworks building exploded into flames yesterday at 3:15 p.m. at the Rutland Fairgrounds but the blaze was extinguished by city firemen before it spread to nearby wooden animal pens.

Cause of the fire was unknown. It was spotted by Merton Huntley of 15 Cottage St., a visitor to the grounds. Dense smoke billowed from the structure as firemen chopped away partitions to extinguish burning hay inside.

The small shack was located an arm's length from two adjoining sheep pens and another animal building, all unoccupied. To the west was a milk house.

Arthur B. Porter, fair manager, said the building had been used for fireworks storage when the pyrotechnics were a Fair feature some years ago. This year hay had been stored there.



MAY 31, 1958

## Boy Rescued Via Ladder

Smoke Blocks Stairway When  
Adjoining Bedroom Burns  
at Cherry St. Home.

Firemen rescued a 14-year-old boy from a smoke-filled second story bedroom at 7:15 a.m. Friday when they were called to the residence of Mrs. Beulah Newton of 58 Cherry St. by neighbors who noticed smoke. No one was injured.

Larry Mason, grandson of Mrs. Newton, was helped down a ladder from his window after fire in another second floor bedroom filled the boy's room with smoke. Firemen said the blaze had apparently been started by someone smoking in bed and had been going for some time prior to the alarm.

Damage was confined to the bedroom, scorching the walls and floor and destroying the bed and bed clothing, firemen said.

By the time fire equipment arrived, everyone was downstairs except young Mason. Firemen stated the stairs were in the burning bedroom and the boy was unable to reach them. He was leaning out of a window when firemen arrived.

After quenching the flames, firefighters used smoke ejectors to clear the upstairs rooms.

DECEMBER 3, 1956.

## Woman Escapes As Heater Fire Blackens Home

Mrs. David Evans, 75, of 130 North St. Ext. escaped injury yesterday when a hot water heater exploded in her home just after she stepped out to clean the snow off the back walk.

Mrs. Evans gave the alarm from the house of a neighbor at 11:22 a.m. and firemen confined the blaze to the kitchen and utility room at the back of the house. The rest of the structure sustained heavy smoke damage.

The other two occupants, Mrs. Evans' daughter, Mrs. Howard P. Claypoole and granddaughter, Patricia Louise Claypoole, were attending church at the time. A pet kitten, Gypsy, belonging to Patricia was found dead from asphyxiation.

Walls of the kitchen and utility room were scorched while the other five rooms were blackened with smoke. The blast shattered windows in all parts of the house.

Asst. Chief Ralph Bean said that the fire was apparently caused by an accumulation of oil fumes.



Bewildered Mary Margaret Baker, 4, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baker, finds sanctuary in the arms of her grandfather, Pasquale

APRIL 16, 1958

## Fire Damages Fuccis' Home On S. Main St.

Fire caused heavy damage Tuesday evening in a three-family dwelling at 44 S. Main St. here owned by Mr. and Mrs. Raphael W. Fucci.

No official damage estimate was available late last night but Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski described the destruction by fire and water as "heavy."

Also unknown was the exact cause of the blaze. Authorities said they believed the fire started in a second floor bedroom and worked up into attic partitions.

Fucci reported the building had been recently renovated and interior decorating had been just completed last Saturday.

The three story structure, with a brick finish, is located on the northeast corner of Spellman Terr. One section is occupied by the Fucci family.

Living in the other apartments are the Benjamin R. Rogers family, downstairs, and the James E. Connelly family upstairs.

None of the Fuccis were at home at the time of the blaze.

Neither the Rogers nor the Connellys were aware the home was on fire until neighbors rushed into the apartments.

Thomas Barrett of 47 S. Main St. and two other high school students, Helen Dunn and Jim Nolan, noticed the smoke.

Barrett called firemen at 8:25 p.m. Then he and James M. "Sandy" Coleman, an adult, ran to warn the occupants.

As fire trucks roared up Washington St., dense smoke practically obscured vision at the top of the hill. Firemen radioed for more help and a general alarm was sounded at 8:29 p.m.

Fire Chief Koltonski rushed to the scene from a Civil Defense meeting. More ladders were raised to the rooftop and the chief and his men swarmed about its slate top.

## Baby Girl Rescued From Fire By Nine-Year-Old Brother



Bernard Skipper Mulcahey, 9, hugs his baby sister, Madelyn, 11 months, after he grabbed her from her crib and carried her to safety from the smoke-filled home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard I. Mulcahey of 41 Washington St., last night. Firemen were called when an auxiliary oil heating unit caught fire.

Herald photo—Merusi.

## Smoke and Flames Drive Out Mulcahey Family From Home on Washington St.

Nine-year-old Bernard "Skipper" Mulcahey raced to safety with his small sister in his arms last night when the furnace caught fire in their home at 41 Washington St. and filled the house with smoke.

Son of Chief Warrant Officer and Mrs. Bernard I. Mulcahey, the boy picked up 11-month-old Madelyn and carried her outside while their mother, unable to reach the telephone, rushed down the street to the fire station and gave an alarm. Three other children got out safely.

According to firemen, who answered the call at 8:07 p.m., smoke and flames shot up through the registers into the den when Mulcahey turned on a new auxiliary heating unit in the cellar. The hot air ducts became sufficiently overheated to ignite the adjacent cold air ducts.

While Mulcahey and a man who had been working with him poured water down the registers to quench the flames, firemen arrived with Engines 1 and 3 and finished the job with two booster lines.

Firemen said damage was confined to an upholstered living room set, scorched walls and the furnace. Heavy smoke penetrated the upstairs apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Coutermarsh and the rear apartment of P. O. C. and Mrs. Bernard Long. The Mulcaheys live in the front lower apartment.

Mulcahey, an administrative technician for the Vermont National Guard, owns the building and said the damage was covered by insurance.

En route to the fire Engine 3, a 1936 Buffalo, operated by Michael Brown of 80 S. Main St., was in collision with a 1954 Ford station wagon owned by Paul Henry Hughes of 180 Stratton Rd.

City police said the Hughes vehicle was parked in front of 43 Washington St., facing west, adjacent to the Mulcahey driveway. The fire engine making a left turn hit its left rear fender. Damage was minor and no one was hurt.

AUGUST 6, 1959.

## Grandpa Aids Child Out Of Burning Home

A 77-year-old grandfather carried his four-year-old granddaughter out of a burning house at 276 West St. Wednesday at about 7:50 p.m.

Pasquale DeBlasio, 77, and his two granddaughters, Jo Ann Baker, 7, and Mary Margaret Baker, 4, were watching TV in the living room off the kitchen of the downstairs apartment when the fire broke out. The children's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baker were away.

Patrolman Daniel Stanowski was passing the house, saw the smoke, reported to the fire department and informed DeBlasio who up until this point hadn't realized anything was wrong. DeBlasio picked up Mary Margaret and fled the house with Jo Ann, aided by Stanowski.

The Rutland Fire Department found the west side of the house in flames. The fire apparently started in an adjoining shed and spread to the kitchen. There was extensive damage to both the shed and kitchen and smoke and water damage throughout the house. No estimate of the damage has been made yet.

The Stanley Kaysuba family of six, who occupy the upstairs apartment, were absent at the time.

## Fire in Shack At Fairgrounds Causes Scare

An old fireworks building exploded into flames yesterday at 3:15 p.m. at the Rutland Fairgrounds but the blaze was extinguished by city firemen before it spread to nearby wooden animal pens.

Cause of the fire was unknown. It was spotted by Merton Huntley of 15 Cottage St., a visitor to the grounds. Dense smoke billowed from the structure as firemen chopped away partitions to extinguish burning hay inside.

The small shack was located an arm's length from two adjoining sheep pens and another animal building, all unoccupied. To the west was a milk house.

Arthur B. Porter, fair manager, said the building had been used for fireworks storage when the pyrotechnics were a fair feature some years ago. This year hay had been stored there.

OCTOBER 23, 1957.

## Smoke Fells Caretaker In Mendon Blaze

An elderly caretaker was partially overcome by smoke yesterday as fire caused extensive damage to a Mendon summer home owned by Earl S. Wright of Rutland, president of the Marble Savings Bank.

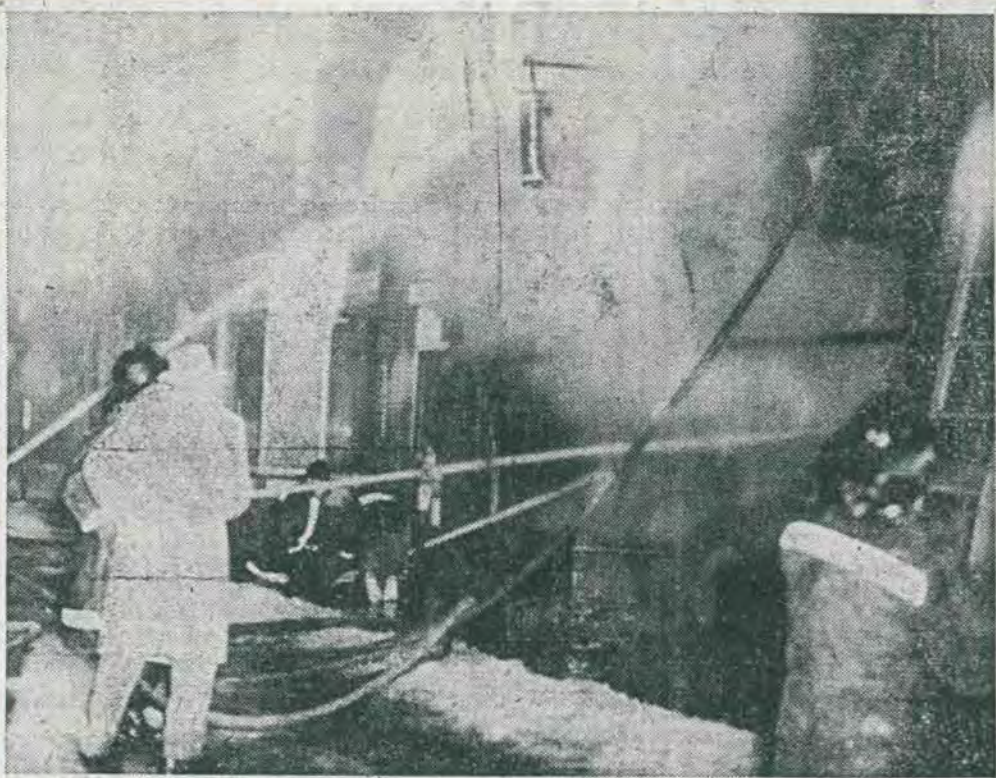
Neighbors found Eugene K. Dunlap, 72, coughing and gagging in one of the smoke-filled rooms where he was trying to save the furnishings.

The house is located on a side road on so-called "Cream Hill." Cause of the fire has not been determined. City firemen were called at 2:07 p.m. and spent two hours quelling it, with the aid of the Mendon Volunteer Fire Department.

Dunlap, firemen said, was asleep when the fire started and was awakened by the crackling of flames in the woodshed.

Opening the shed door he was forced back by smoke. Neighbors broke a picture window and carried him outside.





Streams of water, coiling hose lines and smoke amid the snow add to battle scene as restaurant at 35 Strong's Ave. goes up in flames of undetermined origin. Rutland fire fighters

Herald photo — Wild brought them under control after four hours early Sunday morning. A general alarm called volunteer firemen to the scene at 1:45 a.m. No one was injured, but the building was gutted.

## Strong's Ave. Bar Burns

Johnny's Restaurant Goes Up in Flames Early Sunday Morning.

Plenty of fire and water, if no firewater, was on tap early Sunday as flames gutted a tavern on Strong's Ave.

Johnny's Restaurant at 35 Strong's Ave., operated by John Colomb in an ancient structure on the western side of the street which has housed a tap room of one sort or another for many years, was completely wrecked by the blaze.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, whose men battled billowing sheets of flames and dense smoke for nearly four hours, said he had asked the office of State Fire Marshal Chester M. Kirby to investigate, since the cause has not yet been determined.

In the midst of a storm of sleet, snow and freezing rain a pedestrian on Merchants Row near the Vermont Transit Bus terminal looked up the street and saw a glow from the rear of the tavern building about 1:40 a.m. He called to Harold Murray, driver for Elkey's Taxi Co., whose car was parked near the terminal.

Murray drove up the street, saw quickly that the blaze was serious, and used his taxi radio to notify his own headquarters. The taxi company immediately called the fire station and as soon as the fire fighting equipment burst onto Strong's Ave. from the station the firemen saw the situation was bad enough to sound a general alarm.

Within minutes fire was spouting from both front and rear. Flames erupted from shattered plate glass windows clear to the middle of the street.

In addition to charring the entire inside of the restaurant the blaze ate its way into partitions and worked into the empty second story.

"I went up those stairs with the hose," said a fire fighter, "and the water came back hot and the smoke came back hotter. I came down the stairs on my back."

Nobody was injured. The department laid four lines of hose and approached the fire from east and west, and from the roof of the two-story wooden building.

Water and smoke got into the LeFrancis & Chamberland auto supply store in a brick structure directly to the south, but that office otherwise escaped damage.

Shortly after 5 a.m. the fire fighters officially declared the blaze was out. Only the shell of the restaurant was standing.

## Home Burns In Mendon

Fire Alarm Causes Traffic Jams on Rte. 4 and Near City Fire Station.

A fire swept through partitions in the Steve Johnson home on Mendon Friday night and caused extensive damage.

Rutland firemen responded to the call at 11:11 p.m. sending two engines and a service car to the scene. The fire whistle blasted the signal 4-2.

Rutland residents looked up the meaning of the signal and saw the location was Washington St. and Merchants Row. Many rushed to the fire station to see where the fire was while police and The Herald received a deluge of telephone calls.

The confusion resulted from the fact the signal is sounded to call off-duty firemen to the main station which is at that corner, in cases of serious fires. A desk man said the department was afraid it might need additional help if the flames ignited neighboring residences by Johnson's.

The Johnson two-story wooden structure is located on Rte. 4 just west of the junction of the East Pittsford Rd. The L-shaped building is situated between the homes of Paul Horton and Daniel Boutwell.

Firemen kept the flames confined within the house. Had it broken out severely, a strong southeast wind would have headed the flames in the direction of Rte. 4. There are no homes across the road in that area.

The fire crept into partitions, making it difficult to fight. Booster lines, laid from Mendon Brook, were employed in the fight. Firemen gasped in dense smoke and chipped away at walls and the slate roof with axes.

MARCH 23, 1959.

## Mendon Fire Rekindled

Johnson Home Partly Burned Friday Night, Is Destroyed Early Saturday.

Nothing but part of one charred wall and a few blackened beams remained standing of the Steve Johnson home on Rte. 4 in Mendon this weekend, after flames broke out again early Saturday morning and demolished the home which had been gutted a few hours before.

Firefighter had been called to the scene by a general alarm in Rutland Friday night, and got the blaze under control after it had eaten through partitions and went through one section of roof.

Apparently, fire officials said, the blaze rekindled about 1:20 a.m. Saturday. There was a stiff cold breeze from the east.

This time the fire left nothing untouched. A barn in back of the house caught fire as well, and the Paul Horton house just to the west was also scorched. Firemen were successful in saving both structures.

The first fire started in the cellar, fire officials said, and worked its way upward. The sparks remaining from it, fanned by the breeze, set fire to the still-hot timbers. The Rutland department didn't leave the scene from the second call until 6 a.m.

Johnson, whose little dog was suffocated in the fire, is staying at the home of his son on Woodstock Ave.

MARCH 29, 1959

## Fire Burns Eating Place

Rutland Restaurant Scene of Cellar Blaze Early Today; Damage Heavy.

A smoky fire that filled the whole downtown district with acrid fumes destroyed the Rutland Restaurant at 55-57 Merchants Row shortly before midnight Sunday.

The blaze apparently broke out in the basement and smoldered for some time before it was discovered by Patrolman Lawrence Crowley who telephoned an alarm to police headquarters about 11:30 p. m. Sunday.

Fire damage appeared to have been confined to the basement and the kitchen in the rear of the first floor but smoke damage was very severe, and firemen were obliged to smash their way through plate glass windows and the store front to ventilate the building.

Smoke seeped through the whole of the three-story brick building which is owned by the Charles F. Landon Trust. The upper stories are occupied by offices of the Economy Department Store. The fire was reported under control by Asst. Chief Ralph Bean at 12:40 a.m.

Patrolman Crowley sighted smoke coming from the rear of the building as he walked his beat on State St., a block distant, and hurried down to investigate. He forced the front door open but smoke was too thick to permit entry.

A general alarm about midnight called all off-duty firemen to the scene. All four engines of the Rutland Fire Department arrived, and the new ladder truck got its baptism of fire as men clambered

to the roof to make sure the flames were not working their way up through partitions.

Hose lines were laid to the front of the building from hydrants on Merchants Row and two more from hydrants on West St. were played on the rear.

Flames were furious in the cellar, which is occupied principally by three large walk-in coolers, and in the kitchen above in behind the sandwich bar.

In the dining room and in the office above the damage appeared to be only that done by the dense, greasy smoke. The News Shop next door was recently vacated, and although smoke seeped into the Beauchamp & O'Rourke drugstore on the corner, and the dental office of Dr. Clifton E. Killary, damage there appeared slight.

The restaurant has been operated since 1917 by the Corsones family. George Corsones, manager, closed it at 2 p.m. Sunday, but returned about 8 p.m. to make out pay checks for the employees. He said all appeared in order then.

In spite of the late hour a considerable crowd of people lined Merchants Row to watch the excitement and police were stationed at the crossings nearby to control traffic.

As the fire was brought under control Corsones sent workmen into the restaurant to carry out the liquor stock from the bar. Patrolman George Packard and a special officer were stationed to guard the building through the night.

When firemen got into the cellar they found the floor already five inches deep in water and it was believed much damage had been done to electrical machinery there. Firemen were unable to find a live outlet into which to connect their working lights. The electric clock had stopped at 11:27 p.m.

A smoke ejector was used to clear smoke from the Economy Store and other undamaged areas.

Corsones said the restaurant had been redecorated less than two years ago and the kitchen re-equipped within a year.

As the fire engines finally departed about 1:30 a.m. a scorched sign still hung in the shattered window. It read, "Special Today — Barbecued Chicken."



Smoke pours out of Rutland Restaurant on Merchants Row, as firefighters smash plate glass windows. Fire, discovered early Monday morning, was confined to basement. The thick smoke hampered firemen from locating the source of the blaze.

Herald photo—Wild day morning, was confined to basement. The thick smoke hampered firemen from locating the source of the blaze.



## Brisk Winds Fan Two Area Woods Fires

Brisk winds fanned furious woods fires in Rutland and Proctor Monday and only the all-out efforts of all available fire fighters and reserves brought them under control. All-night patrols were ordered at both fire scenes.

All standby and off-duty firemen in Rutland were called out at 3:18 p.m. when fire spread from the city incinerator off Gleason Rd. Igniting trash, grass, brush and then began to sweep through windfall-strewn woodlands toward dwellings on Gleason Rd. It was the fourth time this year that firemen had been called to the city dump.

"A terrible situation" was how Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski sized up the fire hazard at that location. He pointed out the danger is perennial during the dry season each spring.

"The wind kept shifting," he said, "whipping the embers back to life again and again."

Except for patrols, the fire equipment returned to the central station at 6:07 p.m.

There were also grass fires at the Fairgrounds at 12:33 p.m., back of Stowell's garage at 12:40 p.m. and on Oak St. extension at 6:16 p.m.

Nearly 100 fire fighters from Proctor, Pittsford, West Rutland and other surrounding towns battled a blaze which swept one-half mile up West Hill above Beaver Pond about noon and was smoldering under control after four hours. Forty men were released from the shops of the Vermont Marble Co. to fight the fire.

Over 4,000 feet of hose were laid out by engines and portable pumps which drew from Beaver Pond and forced the water under pressure up to 150 pounds up the steep slope. Proctor Fire Chief Thomas B. Stafford reported.

The blaze apparently got its start near the railroad track a few rods from the pond. It burned almost directly west up the hill, widening in some places to nearly 1,000 feet, Stafford said. It was stopped at the crest of the hill.

## Fire Damages West St. Home Of Garafanos

City firemen in two engines radioed for a third Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. when they arrived at the 269 West St. wooden home of Joseph Garofano, which emitted a "threatening" quantity of smoke, Capt. Ralph Bean said.

Bean said the fire, which caused moderate damage to partitions got its start in a defective smoke pipe from the kitchen wood-burning stove.

"We had to open the kitchen partition from the floor to the ceiling," Bean said, "because the flames mushroomed through the floorboards above."

They also spread to the room directly above and the one adjacent.

# Rutland Man Fire Victim

Demetrio Pratico, 76, Is Burned to Death in Early Morning Blaze at Post St. Home.

## All Alone

Demetrio Pratico, 76, a familiar figure for many years at St. Peter's Church, where he was caretaker of flowers, was burned to death in his home at 137 Post St. early Sunday.

Fire gutted the inside of the seven-room frame dwelling shortly before dawn. Apparently it had been burning for some time before the heat built up to an explosion and blasted out the windows, revealing the flames.

Pratico's badly scorched body was found in the remains of his living room halfway between the wreckage of his small bedroom and the front door.

He was alone in the house. At first it was believed two other men who occasionally stay with him might have been trapped in the holocaust. But city police located both men elsewhere Sunday morning.

Louis Gill of 250 Stratton Rd. and Fred Perkins of 10 Dana Ave., Public Works Department men running a street-sweeping machine at River St. Bridge one block away, were the first to spot the fire about 4:45 a. m.

"We saw the flames from the bridge, and that street sweeper really rolled down the road," said Gill. "Even while we were on our way we heard a sort of an explosion, and then the fire really broke out all over the place."

The house consisted of two sections connected by a small structure which contained Pratico's bedroom and a narrow hall. It was this which burned the fiercest. Fire destroyed the wall and roof of the bedroom, leaving nothing but the metal bedstead and chunks of black plaster from the caved-in ceiling.

Gill tried to break in a door but was driven back by the heat, as Perkins ran for a telephone.



Body of Demetrio Pratico, 76, is carried from his house at the corner of Post and South Sts., Rutland, where he was burned to death early Sunday morning. Assisting undertakers in task are Police Officers George Packard, left, and Lawrence Crowley. Cause of fire, which gutted interior of house, is undetermined.

## Woman Dies Of Burns

Mrs. Ida Wortman, 79, of State Street Succumbs at Hospital.

Mrs. Ida S. Wortman, 79, of 84 State St. died Friday morning in Rutland Hospital of burns received as she attempted to light an oil space heater in her home Thursday about 2 p.m.

Mrs. Wortman was rushed to the hospital by ambulance shortly afterward. City police estimated she suffered burns over 50 per cent of her body.

A little over an hour later, at 3:40 p.m. Thursday, Mrs. Irene Armstrong, 47, of East Wallingford, one of Mrs. Wortman's daughters, suffered chest bruises when the car she was driving was in collision at Burnham and Lincoln Aves. with a truck driven by George Tarbell, 23, of 214 N. Church St. Police said Mrs. Armstrong complained of neck and back injuries in addition to chest injuries and drove her to the hospital where she was treated and released.

Mrs. Minnie D. Mack of Albany, N. Y., another daughter, a nurse at the Pleasant Manor convalescent home in West Rutland, was a passenger in the Armstrong vehicle. Police said she was shaken up but otherwise did not appear injured.

A doctor ordered Mrs. Armstrong taken to the hospital and Mrs. Mack accompanied her. They were driven to the hospital in the city police cruiser operated by Patrolman Daniel J. Stanowski of 68 Plain St.

At the intersection of Jackson Ave., a 1959 station wagon driven by Lucius Farnham, 43, of 21 Division St., entered onto S. Main St., police said, and was in collision with the cruiser.

Each vehicle sustained about \$20 damage, said police. Officer Stanowski reported the cruiser's siren and flashing red light were in operation at the time of the accident, 3:57 p.m.

The front end of the truck and the right side, left door, left rear fender, rear bumper and top of the Armstrong car were extensively damaged. Mrs. Armstrong was traveling east on Burnham Ave. and Tarbell was going north on Lincoln at the time of the accident.

The fire department got the first alarm at 4:58 a. m. Within seconds after the first truck arrived at the scene on the corner of Post and South Sts., the fire fighters had radioed for more help. The general alarm whistle blew at 5:04, calling all special and off-duty firemen.

Fire had spread to both wings, especially to the east over the living room, but with several lines in action the firemen brought it under control quickly. Making their way into the dripping, charred living room with its furniture blackened almost beyond recognition, the men found Pratico's body. He was on his back, with one fist clenched in the air.

Nobody knew for sure who it was until relatives came to make the identification. His venerable fringe of whiskers, which had earned him the nickname of "Santa Claus," was burned completely off.

State's Atty. Theodore G. Corsones and Dr. William Powers, regional medical examiner, were called to the scene. The body was removed to the Tedesco Funeral Home. The fire department returned to the station at 6:53 a. m.

## Fire Damages Keiffer House On Mussey St.

A hot stovepipe ignited a partition at the home of Theodore Keiffer Jr. on Mussey St. about 4:40 p.m. Thursday, and although the blaze was quickly subdued, the general alarm was sounded.

The fire, reached by 1,200 feet of booster line laid from Mussey St. through the Keiffer fields and around several outbuildings, ate its way through the kitchen ceiling and wall and into a blind attic.

No one was injured. The house, occupied by Keiffer, his widowed mother and their dogs, was blacked out when wiring was burned. Keiffer methodically showed firemen around while his mother huddled in the damp, chilly kitchen.

Two fire trucks arrived at the scene and immediately radioed for the general alarm to be sounded, calling all firemen in the city to the farm. Smoke was billowing voluminously from the house, and firemen later said there might have been danger to the numerous outbuildings.

So two more engines and a lighting plant arrived, but the fire was under control. Damage was confined to the kitchen wall, ceiling and attic partitions, and a portion of the roof, which firemen chopped through to get at the flames.

JUNE 20, 1958.

## Furniture Warehouse Fire Damage Is High

Considerable damage was caused to the building and contents of the warehouse of the Standard Home Furnishings at 189 Granger St. by fire which broke out at 11 p.m. Thursday.

Firemen responding to a telephone call from a neighbor, who saw smoke issuing from the building, used three booster lines to extinguish flames which had spread cartons of material to the partitions.

Water and smoke damage was also caused to furniture, mattresses, curtains and drapes in the warehouse.

Cause of the blaze was unknown. The building and contents is owned by Moses Tropp.





This was the scene on Center St. Sunday evening, as fire fighting equipment clustered about the stubborn fire of mysterious origin which wrecked vacant Wonder Store. Clouds of smoke from rubber goods stored inside were

visible from as far away as Pittsford. West Rutland and Pittsford departments were called to the general alarm blaze. Several firemen suffered from smoke inhalation, but nobody was hospitalized.

Herald photo—Wild

## Flames Gut Vacant Center St. Store

### Three Firemen Overcome as Fire Rages in Former Wonder Store.

By TOM FAGAN

A stubborn and mysterious fire early Sunday night completely burned out the building at 25-29 Center St., vacated a year or so ago by the Wonder Store.

Columns of black smoke, which firemen said was caused by burning stocks of rubbers and overshoes, were visible as far away as Pittsford. Three firemen were overcome by the fumes.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski called help from West Rutland and Pittsford fire departments. A general alarm had already summoned off-duty firemen and Rutland volunteers.

The cause of the blaze was not immediately known, and no early estimate of the damage could be had.

Carpenter's Pharmacy, which at No. 25 was the only occupied store in the building, suffered smoke and water damage, but Robert H. Carpenter, the proprietor, removed his prescription records and cash register in time.

"The fire apparently started in the basement. How, we don't know," said Asst. Chief Ralph R. Bean.

Koltonski said Sunday night he had asked for an investigation by the state fire marshal. An all-night watch was set on the building as the brick walls were still nearly red hot.

The building formerly known as the Rutland Wonder Mart, is owned by Mrs. Agnes Walsh of this city and is leased to the Interstate Dry Goods Co., which operates the Economy Store here and has offices in New York.

The alarm was sounded by an unidentified man who drove up to the fire station at 6:41 p.m. and shouted "The Wonder Store." Trucks were sent from both fire stations and by the time they arrived flames were bursting from the windows on Center St. and from those facing an alley in the rear, off Willow St.

A hose line was laid from a hydrant at Edson and Willow and a fire truck dragged it in through the alley to get at the rear of the building. At the same time the ladder truck and other engines took position on Center St.

Crowds poured out of the Paramount Theater, lining the south side of the street. Others, hearing the alarm, came by car and foot to watch. It was a very well attended fire.

Firemen who tried to make their way through the rear alley were forced back by billows of black smoke which the wind swept in clouds across the city.

Curiosity seekers who climbed roofs for better vantage gasped for breath. It was far worse for firemen, who crouched on window ledges trying to play water inside.

The fire apparently mounted through the partitions and mushroomed at the second floor ceiling. Then it climbed to the roof and spread out between it and a false ceiling. Firemen seemingly had it under control, when it broke out again with increased fury under the roof.

Firemen, some with masks, broke through the plate glass windows at the Center St. front, then mounted ladders to smash their way through second story windows. Time and again the dense smoke drove them back.

The three firemen who were overcome were George Ferguson, George Regan and Gerald Lloyd. The latter two recovered after a few whiffs of oxygen, but Ferguson, who had been released from the Rutland Hospital only a week ago, was ordered back to the firehouse and then sent home.

Tons of water were poured into the building through windows, through holes cut in the roof and through a skylight. Once flames leaped to the building just to the west but were quickly doused.

Inside, firemen worked in a nightmarish maze of discarded wooden counters, old boxes and tables. Charred fashion manikins looked gruesomely like bodies.

Both on-duty and off-duty city policemen were called to handle traffic, to set up firelines on Center St. and to keep the crowds back from the alley off Willow St.

The blaze was brought under control about 9 p.m. but smoldered all through the evening.

Carpenter said he was uncertain whether he could open his pharmacy Monday. Although tarpaulins were thrown over some of his stock, there was a foot of water in his basement.

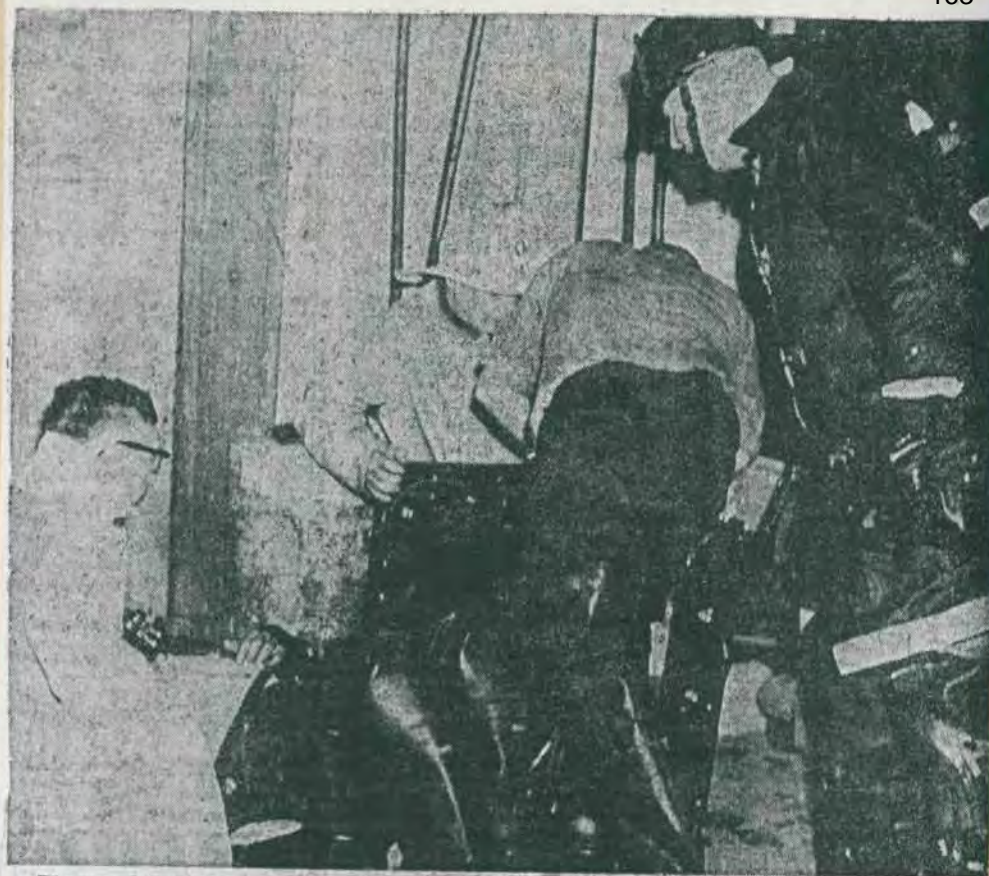
"I wouldn't have given 10 cents for my chances when I first got here," he said later. "I'm very

grateful to the firemen and everyone who helped."

Smoke filtered into Segale's Restaurant and the Center Grill to the east but did little damage.

Dr. William Powers treated the firemen who were overcome and climbed a ladder to administer first aid to Alderman Jack Barrett, a volunteer fireman, who cut his hand.

A canteen to provide the weary firemen with sandwiches and coffee was set up by Albert Macaulay in Prouse's Restaurant across the street.



Fireman George Ferguson, lying on ground, gets oxygen after being overcome by smoke in Sunday's blaze at Wonder Store on Center St. With him, left to right, are Dr. William Pow-

ers, the Rev. Charles E. Fitzpatrick and Firemen George Regan and Patrick Hurley. Fumes choked several fire fighters, but nobody was hospitalized.



Hat knocked off, Fireman John Thompson crouches by second story window of Wonder Store on Center St., as Fireman Patrick Hurley climbs up ladder. Dense smoke from rubber

goods stored in unused building swirls over their heads, obscuring the store's sign. State fire marshal's office has been asked to investigate the fire's cause.

Herald photos—Wil



# Flames Destroy Old Pierce Home

Clarendon House That Was Tavern During Revolution Burns to Ground; Aged Owner and Housekeeper Escape, Save Some Antiques.

The old homestead which gave the name "Pierce's Corners" to that section of Clarendon caught fire about noon Thursday and quickly burned to the ground.

Thomas C. Pierce, 87, whose family has long owned the property, escaped without injury, as did his housekeeper, Mrs. Ethel Crowler, of Rutland.

The house dates from the days of Ethan Allen. Many antiques were saved. So were a nearby sugar house, garage and barn.

The blaze apparently started from a chimney, said Rutland Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltanski. There was no water supply available and firemen had to stand around helplessly and watch the old house burn.

The rugged but aged timbers — some of the beams were a foot square — quickly gave way to the flames, fanned by a brisk breeze. Mrs. Crowler spotted the fire when she saw smoke pouring from the wall in front of the kitchen chimney. The kitchen stove was wood-burning.

She alerted Pierce in the living room, and called the Rutland firemen. Then the pair enlisted the aid of some road workers in the area in removing furniture and antiques from the first floor.

The driver of the first Rutland engine dispatched to the scene saw smoke billowing from quite a distance away, and called by radio for more help.

But there was little firemen could do upon arrival, except confine the fire to the house and assist in removal of antiques. They helped save such pieces as a 1780 desk, cherry-topped tables, birds-eye maple chairs and ancient clocks.

Pierce's son, Howard, lives in another house nearby, and estimated about 50 people pitched in to save the belongings. Furniture of lesser value, most of it on the second floor, was lost. Firemen even removed a heater, still lighted, from a first-floor room.

The younger Pierce said his father saved all personal papers.

The old house, built about 1780, stood where Rte. 103 meets U.S. Rte. 7 today and had been a landmark for years. The Pierce family has owned it for 150 years, and both Thomas Pierce and his father were born there.

Apparently it was a tavern operated by John Bowman in Revolutionary times. Tradition says Ethan Allen was a visitor.

Remains of the old bar were visible for years after the house became a private dwelling, neighbors said. The house has been remodeled several times.

Pierce apparently was losing no time in reminiscing Thursday evening. His son said he was making plans to build a new house.

"He wanted to build a new one anyway — now he'll have to."

Pierce and Mrs. Crowler spent the night with his daughter, Mrs. Fred King in Rutland.



Two Rutland firemen stand with arms akimbo as they watch the house burn. No water was available.



Smoke billows from Thomas Pierce home, built in 1780 as Bowman's Tavern at Pierce's Corners in Clarendon. Firemen

MARCH 29, 1961.

## Fire Wrecks Kitchen, Attic On North St.

A parakeet was the only victim of a fire which extensively damaged the home of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Reilly at 64 North St. about 6 p.m. Wednesday.

A pan of grease, left heating on the stove after the Reillys left, according to firemen, caught fire. The flames raced up the kitchen wall and into the attic. The cupboards above the stove were burned completely and the contents were demolished by the heat.

Nicholas A. Barone Jr., 10, of 69 North St., discovered the smoke pouring from the home. He looked in the window, saw the flames in the kitchen and returned to his home across the street to have his mother call the fire department.

Firemen arrived before the occupants did and were forced to smash out the kitchen windows to allow the dense smoke to escape. They chopped through the ceiling into the attic above the stove to get at burning embers.

Fire and water damage, although extensive, was confined to the kitchen and attic, firemen said. The amount was not estimated.

## Fire Races Up Stairs

House Badly Damaged When Boy Spills Gasoline and Lights Match.

A boy's attempt to clean up spilled gasoline turned into an expensive cleanup job by city firemen.

Joseph Gauthier, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert H. Gauthier of 75 Forest St., discovered the leaves he raked near his home late Thursday afternoon were too damp to be ignited. He went down cellar for gasoline to get them burning.

Asst. Fire Chief Ralph R. Beane said the boy spilled a little gasoline while pouring it from a can to a pint bottle, could not find rags to wipe up the spilled portion and lit a match to it in an attempt to get rid of it.

The flames jumped from the floor to the can. Young Gauthier rushed upstairs to get his younger brother, Johnny, 8, out of the house, and when the flames got out of control, called city firemen.

His mother and father were absent while this was going on. Mary Sweeney, the owner of the house who resides on the second floor, was a patient in the Rutland Hospital.

Firemen were called at 6:57 p. m. When they arrived, flames had already raced up the cellar stairway and into the kitchen. Smoke had filled the entire house.

Beane said there was extensive fire damage to the cellar stairway and kitchen, including the refrigerator and new washing machine. Walls were blistered, he said, "and the smoke damage to the entire house was tremendous." The boy singed his hair and eyebrows and received slight burns on his ankle and hand.

Gauthier, now manager of the OK Diner, is a former fireman.



# Flash Fire Destroys Roller Rink

## Rutland Firemen Fight General Alarm Blaze at Meadowbrook.

A flash fire roared through the Meadowbrook roller skating rink at 150 S. Main St. late Sunday night. The cause of the general alarm blaze was undetermined.

Flames gutted the interior of the building and ruined the large skating floor. There was no estimate of damage.

It was after 1 a.m. before the fire was considered under control.

Clouds of thick smoke and intermittent flames spouting from the roof, with the sound of the alarm whistle, brought out hundreds of spectators.

The fire broke out shortly after 10:30 p.m. When Patrolman Charles Spoon, who had been on duty there, closed the place about that time, everything was quiet.

Ilo Iannetti of Rutland employed by the rink operator, Guido Forte, was in the Midway Diner across Moon Brook from the large two-story barn-like structure.

"I looked out the diner window and thought someone had left the lights on at the rink," Iannetti said. "But my God, they were flames instead."

Iannetti called the fire department at 10:53 p.m. Two minutes after the first fire truck raced up, the firemen called for a general alarm to summon every available man.

The fire apparently started near an amplifier on the main floor, according to rink employees. That was where Iannetti first noticed the flames.

It spread quickly along the walls and into the second floor. A light southwesterly breeze whipped into the building as firemen battered open doors and windows to get at the flames. Fire spouted from under the eaves on the south side, and danced amid the clouds of smoke on the roof, although repeatedly beaten back by streams of water.

It was midnight before the firemen could force their way into the smoky interior and get at the sparking partitions and walls.

They also fought their way three times into the cellar, where flames had spread to every corner. They emerged every time choking and gasping from the thick oily smoke.

At the same time, partitions and false ceilings in the upper story continued to crackle, smoulder and break forth with jets of fire. Repeated assaults with water would quell the flames in one spot, but they would start up again elsewhere.

Smoke and sparks rolled north over S. Main St., causing murky driving conditions as far away as Christ the King Church at Killing-ton Ave. Local police detoured hundreds of cars around the hose lines at hydrants on S. Main St.

Several boats were stored in the cellar of the building, according to rink employees. Nobody had been able to penetrate far enough into the cellar early Monday to find out if they were safe.

Among the items ruined was a new plastic skating floor, installed last year. The building and its contents were partially covered by insurance.



Rutland city firemen hoist ladder from hook and ladder truck to reach high windows at Meadowbrook Skating Rink on S. Main St. late Sunday. The fire, which broke out shortly be-

fore 11 p. m., was still being fought after midnight. The skating rink was destroyed in the general alarm blaze which attracted hundreds of Rutlanders. (Story, Page 1)



City firemen play hoses high inside Meadowbrook Roller Skating Rink on S. Main St. Sunday night in efforts to quell flames spurting

around eaves of building. The flash fire broke out shortly before 11 p. m. and destroyed the large rink. All fire-fighting units responded.

## Firemen Quench Barn Blaze at 34 Elm St.

Rutland firemen poured water from booster lines on three engines Friday afternoon to quench a barn blaze on property owned by David Mac at 34 Elm St.

The fire was reported at 4:16 p.m.

Storage, tools and automobile parts inside received only minor damage, but the owner told firemen he will probably tear down the partially damaged building. Tenants of the barn and adjoining house are Ralph J. Soulia, an employee of Mac, and his wife.

Children playing with matches may have started the back end of the structure burning, according to fire officials.

The firemen had to return at 6:59 p.m. to put out smoldering embers.

MONDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 14, 1960.

## Firemen Rush To Variety Of Local Blazes

A persistent barn blaze, rubbish and grass fires, a false alarm and a fire at the home of one of their own number took the time of Rutland firemen over the weekend.

At 6:17 a. m. Saturday firemen returned to 34 Elm St., site of a storage barn owned by Dave Mac. They had first been there Friday shortly after 4 p. m., they said, and after the fire there rekindled about 7 p. m. Friday they went back again.

Saturday at 6:17 a. m. Engine 4 returned once more to the barn, when the never-say-die flames were renewed. At 6:25 a. m. help was called and Engines 1 and 3 attacked the barn. By 7:53 a. m. the department was satisfied the fire was out, once and for all.

On Friday Mac had said he would probably tear down the partially damaged building. Firemen first theorized children playing with matches had started the fire, but didn't say how it was kept going.

Other activity for the department Saturday came when a false alarm was sounded at 66 East St., firemen said. This occurred at 1:10 a. m.

A wooden fence was set ablaze by a rubbish fire that got out of hand about 9 a. m. Sunday at 36 Strongs Ave., but booster lines were employed before serious damage was done, firemen said.

A fire in a Meadow St. meadow was attended about 1 p. m. Sunday by firemen in Engine 4, who "just let it burn," they said. There was no damage, they reported.

And at about noon Sunday Engines 1 and 3 reported to the home of Fireman Emmett Fleming of 21 Emmett Ave., where they doused a shed scorched by flames from a rubbish fire, they said.





Thick smoke hampered fighters of the Wonder Store fire from both front and rear of Center St. store Sunday. Here Firemen Raymond Seward, left, and Gerald Lloyd, don their masks in the swirling clouds before reentering the building.





Smoke billows from the third floor of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bryce Davis of 21 Curtis Ave. Friday evening as city firemen doused the blaze in bitter temperatures. No one was hurt.

## 'Together for Christmas,' Vows Family Routed by Fire

By PETE SCHOFFSTALL

"We're all together, and we'll be all together for Christmas," said Bryce I. Davis to his son, James, 10, in the cold air in front of their home at 21 Curtis Ave. Friday night an hour after a general alarm fire of undetermined origin gutted the third floor attic. Davis, his wife and six children, and their tenants in a back apartment—Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Hart and two children—all escaped without injury.

The general alarm fire, which began about 6:15 p.m., left the two Rutland families with a water damaged home, and sodden Christmas presents, but thankful that no one was injured.

Davis, a service station proprietor, was unable to say how much damage there was Friday night. He said he did not know the degree to which the property was covered by insurance.

The fire was kept from extensively damaging the home by quick response of Rutland firemen, who were first summoned at 6:28 p.m. The fire whistle was sounded at 6:32 p.m. and an "under control" whistle came at 7:52 p.m. One fire engine remained until 8:24 p.m. to make sure the blaze did not rekindle.

Smoke from the fire which filled the attic with flames was spotted by area residents who deluged the fire department with reports. The smoke hovered over the whole Curtis Ave. area and as far north as Rutland Hospital.

In the chill night an hour or so after the fire Davis was busy making arrangements to have his family and the Harts spend the night with friends and relatives.

"We're a little shaken, but everything's going to be all right. Merry Christmas," he said.

## 'Year of Grass Fires' Believed City's Worst

Three spectacular downtown fires and one death marked the 1958-59 fiscal year for city firemen which ended Tuesday.

A total of 425 fire calls were answered by the department over the 12-month period. The last was a false alarm at 7:25 p.m. Tuesday.

Fire losses this year will be heavier than those of the previous fiscal year, said Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski. Losses, determined by insurance paid, amounted to \$50,669.74 during the 1957-58 year. Over the past year, fire losses have averaged between \$30,000 and \$40,000, said Chief Koltonski. Losses for the current year have not yet been totaled.

But they will be higher than those of the last year, the chief said, due to three blazes in the city's business section. There were no major downtown fires the year before.

Johnnie's Grill on Strongs Ave. was destroyed Feb. 15. The fire loss has been estimated at about \$10,000.

Final estimates have not been made on losses incurred in the Rutland Restaurant fire on March 29 nor the May 10 burning of the

Wonder Store on Center St.

Chief Koltonski said the exact cause of any of the three blazes has not been determined.

Rutland City had gone without a death by fire for some three years until April 19. On that date Demetrio Pratico, 76, burned to death in his home at 137 Post St.

Sundays were bad days for the local firefighters. The three major fires were all fought on Sundays. The Pratico death also occurred on a Sunday.

Grass fires proved a major source of calls. Chief Koltonski estimated 37 per cent of the alarms answered were due to such fires.

The department records show a total of 157 grass fires in three months. In April there were 148 grass blazes as compared to two in March and seven in May.

But the 56-57 fiscal year might well be termed, "The Year of Grass Fires." They swelled the total fire calls to a figure of 556, the largest number of alarms ever answered by the Rutland department, according to the chief.

A break down of calls answered by fiscal years follows: 425, 58-59; 346, 57-58; 556, 56-57; 374, 55-56; 315, 54-55; 399, 53-54; and 407, 52-53.



Smoke rises from annex to Lindholm's Sports Center as firemen Friday battled blaze

which was confined to partitions. Moderate damage was reported.

## Blaze at Lindholm Block Brings Firemen Out Twice

A fire Friday at the Lindholm Block on S. Main St. brought firemen twice to the scene, once in the morning and again after dark.

Only moderate damage was reported. The fire was confined to the partitions of an annex to the Lindholm Sport Center, used as a storage area.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles King, who live in an apartment above the annex, were smoked out but otherwise unharmed, firemen said.

Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said the blaze began in the building's basement, above an overheated oil furnace which had been converted from a coal-burner. The furnace was working against very low temperatures which have prevailed for the past two weeks.

Beams and woodwork directly above it were ignited, said Chief Koltonski. Flames and smoke gradually worked into the partitions of the annex.

Fire Capt. James J. Rice said there was so much smoke when he first got there that nobody could be certain of the amount of fire in the building. Then firefighters discovered a hatchway open and made their way into the cellar.

Capt. Rice found the Kings on a rear porch of their upstairs apartment. "The smoke was so

thick," he said, "that about all I could see was their feet."

First notice of the blaze came to the fire station at 11:38 a. m. from Paul Adams, proprietor of the Adams Radiator Repair shop between the sports center and the annex. Adams told firemen he saw smoke earlier in the morning, but thought it was just hot steam pipes.

The fire burned into the walls on both sides of the sports annex, and into the floor of the King apartment.

The general alarm whistle calling off-duty firefighters sounded at 11:43 a. m. on Capt. Rice's order because of the undetermined extent of the fire.

Alex Lindholm, one of the building's owners, said there was moderate damage to the ground floor, and that he believed it was covered by insurance.

At 6:40 p. m. the fire department got its second call to the scene, when a spark ignited more fire under the King apartment. Firemen chopped a hole and doused the embers with a booster line.

Department members said it was lucky the blaze wasn't worse, because the entire block at Terrill and S. Main Sts. is constructed of wood.

## Quick Stop In Howe St. Roofing Fire

A general alarm fire of undetermined origin raged through the Laconia Roofing & Siding Co. in back of 30 Howe St. late Tuesday night, but city fire fighters quickly brought it under control.

Flames were leaping out of the roof as the fire trucks raced out of the station about 11 p.m. Firemen could see the light across the railroad tracks as they rolled down Merchants Row.

Because the supply company, owned by Florian St. Gelais, is in a thickly-populated section with many large frame dwellings, nearby, firemen ordered the general alarm sounded to call all special-duty men in case of need.

But they strung a hose from a hydrant at Howe and Pine Sts., and, with the aid of booster lines, fought down the flames in short order. Early Wednesday there was no word as to the fire's cause, or the extent of damage.

## Neighbors Aid Couple Whose Home Burned

Neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome LeFrancois of 8½ Central Ave. were taking a collection Monday to help the couple recoup some of the loss suffered from a Saturday night fire.

The single story three-room dwelling occupied by Mr. and Mrs. LeFrancois was considerably damaged at 6:45 p.m. Saturday when flames swept through the partitions. Firemen said Monday the contents of the home were completely lost. Only a pocketbook containing money was reported saved.

Firemen said the fire started while LeFrancois and his wife were in the cellar using a blow torch to thaw frozen water pipes. A partition was ignited and the blaze swept through the rest of the house. The couple did not immediately realize the first floor was on fire, but they managed to escape uninjured.

Firefighters spent two hours battling the blaze in sub-zero weather.

The house is owned by Mrs. Anna B. Trombley of Stratton Rd. Another fire in partitions was quelled by firemen within a half hour Saturday night at the home of Robert Hackett of 17 Mansfield Pl.

The fire started in the partition in back of a fireplace in the 2½-story home at 11:55 p.m. It was under control by 12:20 a.m. with only minor damage to the partitions reported.

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Smith, who also lives in the house, is the owner.

Local firefighters answered two calls Sunday. The first was to an apartment building at 50 West St., where a hot water tank was leaking. They shut the valve.

The next Sunday call was to the residence of William Marcille of 107 S. Main St., where a chimney blazed into the night sky shortly before 9 p.m., and caused motorists to stop and tell the family something was wrong. There was no damage outside the chimney, firemen said.

Monday at 10:30 a.m. an auto engine under repair in a service station at 108 Strongs Ave. caught fire. Firemen said the station attendants put the blaze out promptly, and needed no aid.





Herald photo—Bennett

This is the way the living room of the Harold A. Steele family's home at 85 Vernon St. looked Sunday, the day after fire blazed through the two-story frame dwelling. Icicles (upper right) hang from openings created by firemen's axes and the family's television set stands in the corner (left). No one was injured.

## Flames Sweep Steele Home On Vernon St.

A flooded oil burner in a combination gas and oil kitchen stove led to an explosion and fire with flames that quickly spurted out of windows and doors at 85 Vernon St. Saturday at 9:45 a. m., enveloping the furnishings and possessions of the Harold A. Steele family.

Capt. Jack Seward of the Rutland Fire Dept. said no one was injured in the blaze, which left the frame house standing, but completely charred the downstairs and wreaked havoc throughout.

Steele was away at the time, about 9:45 a. m., Capt. Seward said. Mrs. Steele and her two young children fled from the dwelling to a neighbor's home. They were able to save "practically nothing," Capt. Seward said.

Engines 1 and 3 first arrived at the fire and quickly called for help from Engine 4. The service car also attended. Firemen used two boosters, 700 feet of 2½-inch line and 300 feet of 1½-inch line. Axes bit through the home upstairs and down.

By Sunday the house looked like a blackened cave downstairs, with icicles hanging down from the living room ceiling over the television set in the corner. Upstairs, beds were covered with snow that found its way through smashed-open windows.

Capt. Seward said the family was staying with Steele's parents.

## Fire Causes Loss of Barn

Vaughan Estate Barn Destroyed; Firemen Save Horses, House.

By PETE SCHOFFSTALL

"We sacrificed the barn for the two horses," said Ralph Bean, assistant fire chief of the Rutland Fire Dept., Friday at 9:35 p. m. as 28 firemen, half of whom had been called in on a general alarm, cleaned up and reloaded hose onto trucks.

The barn fire, on property at 172 Ash St. and owned by the Herman Vaughan estate, was reported at 7:30 p. m. It represented a complete loss because, according to Chief Bean, the first men on the scene had to concentrate on getting the horses out. On their arrival firemen set up two booster lines and immediately began to fight back fire near the two horses, a palomino and a quarter horse. At the same time — it was then 7:34 p. m. — fire fighters radioed back to the station for two more trucks and the whistle box signal which summoned off-duty firemen.

Chief Bean paged through a soggy notebook a little later, giving out information.

"I'm darn glad we got those horses out," he said, "and kept the blaze from spreading to the house right next to the barn."

"The firemen did an awfully good job," said Vaughan Griffin Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Vaughan Griffin of 7 Spellman

Ter. Young Griffin owns the quarter horse, Major Ireland. The palomino, Keela Silver Tonette, is owned by David Hannon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Hannon of 139 Ash St.

"I'm very grateful to the firemen," said young Griffin, who added that saddles and other tack were retrieved from the barn with the horses. All he could say was lost was the barn and hay and some hand tools on the second floor.

Firemen worked at the scene until about 9:30 p. m., two hours, returning to the stations wet, dirty and tired.

At about the time of their return no one was to be found upstairs in the central station. A fill-in painting of a ship at sea, with the paints and an open paint jar and brush nearby, was left in the center of a ping-pong table — silent testimony of the three minutes it took firemen to get to the scene.

"I'm calling the fire marshal's office in the morning," said Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski. He verified a report that two boys were seen leaving the barn shortly before the fire break-out was noticed.

Reports varied on who spotted the fire first, but it was reported by H. D. Lester who rents a house not 15 feet from the barn. It was David Hannon, Lester and firemen that got the horses from the blazing structure. This could not be done, Chief Bean explained, until the boosters doused flames immediately behind the horses and the water cooled the animals off. When they became less excited they were led out.

The flames and general alarm whistle attracted hundreds of spectators who satisfied their curiosity.

There was no estimate of the loss late Friday night but firemen said that the entire roof of the barn was destroyed. Young Griffin termed the loss "total."

## Family Of Four Flees House Fire

Awakened by flames licking away at furniture in their living room, a Rutland family fled from their Creed Rd. wooden one-story house late Friday.

The family, Frank J. and Bertha Chamberlain and children, Frank Jr., 6, and Joanne, 4, living at 229 Creek Rd., escaped without injury but lost most of their house furniture and clothing.

Their five-room house sustained extensive fire and water damage inside but according to Rutland Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski at the scene, it was still structurally sound pending investigation which proves otherwise.

The family put out into the cold were taken in for the night nearby by their neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Ponton. Contacted, Chamberlain reported he did not know how the fire started, but he said Chief Koltonski would have an investigation starting Saturday morning.

Fire Dept. Capt. C. I. Jack Seward reported the inside of the house was badly burned. He said the fire was coming out of windows and the back door when they first arrived at the scene. He noted the family went to bed at 9 p.m. and awakened to see flames. Chamberlain reported his house was insured, said firemen.

The fire department reported early Saturday that no one was injured at the scene. They said the trucks left the station at 10:40 p.m. and returned at 12:02 a.m. Engines 1 and 3 were used, and a line laid from a nearby hydrant.

## Stuck Alarm Signals Fire On West St.

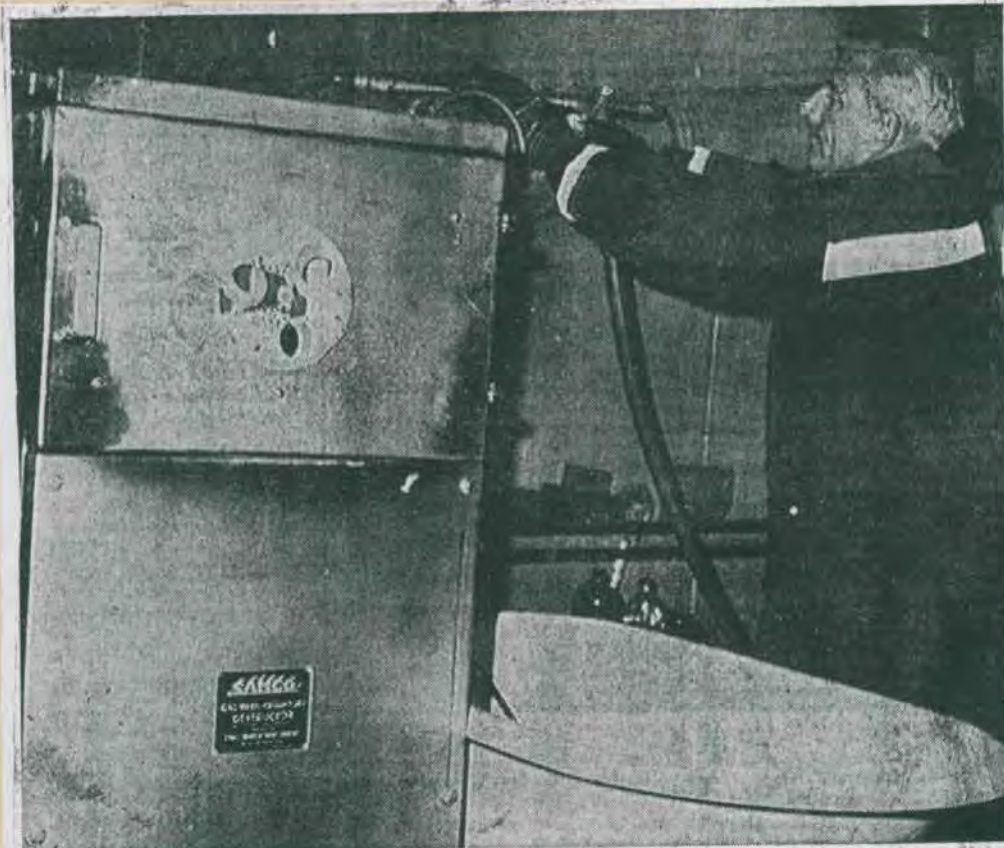
A general alarm fire resulted from a defective oil hot water heater in the Olney Apartments at 22 West St. Wednesday at 9:26 p.m. The long, single, walling blast which issued the alarm was not a change of signals, firemen reported. It was a result of the switch being stuck.

Fire Chief Alfred Koltonski said a short circuit in the heater evidently caused the motor to overheat, melt the oil feed and ignite the escaping fuel. Although the fire damage was slight, he added there was considerable oil smoke throughout the lower apartments. The wooden stairway leading to the apartment from the cellar was charred and the heater's motor destroyed.

Smoke ejectors were needed to clear the air in the building in which there are about 20 apartments. The building and the one adjoining it are owned by Axel J. and Jane (Olney) Anderson of Rutland.

"We used four carbon dioxide extinguishers and a booster line and had the fire out almost immediately," Chief Koltonski said. "It was the smoke that caused the most trouble."

All trucks and crews were back in the station at 10:18 p.m., less than an hour after the fire began.



Fireman sprays water onto partition to check a gas-fired blaze at the animal hospital of Dr. H. Hugh Quimby of 175 Woodstock Ave. Wednesday. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said the fire probably was caused because of im-

proper insulation between the new crematory (left) and partition. The crematory was being used for the first time. Animals in the building escaped injury from fire and smoke as the flames were quickly extinguished.



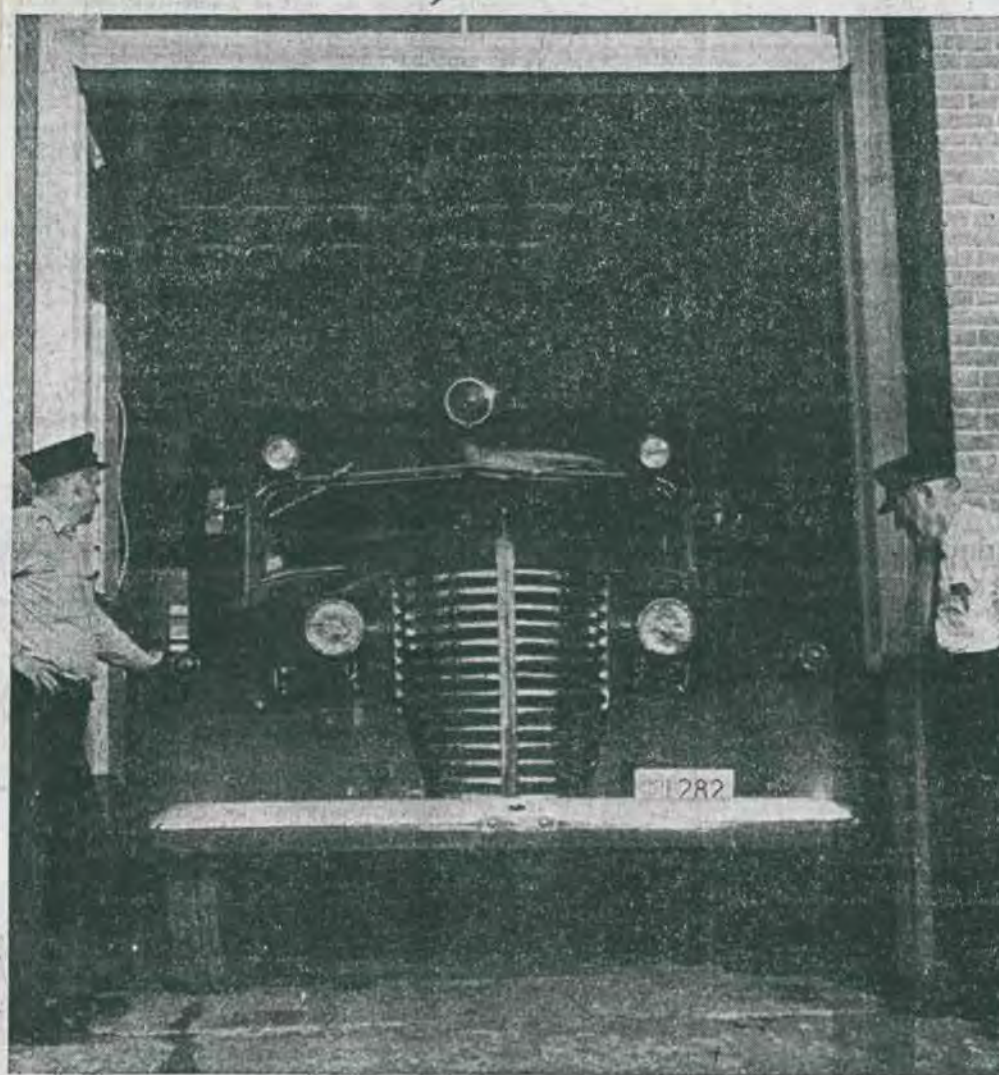
## Leaking Gas Flares, Two Cars Singed

Gasoline leaking from a car being repaired at Ferland's Cities Service Station at N. Main St. and Woodstock Ave. was given as the cause by city police for a momentarily spectacular fire which raged at the station for several minutes after 10:52 a.m. Tuesday.

The flames enveloped the car under repair and a second car in the adjacent work bay. Engines 1, 2, 3 and the ladder truck brought city firemen who had the fire in control and returned to the station by 11:22 a.m. No injuries were reported.

Aimie Ferland, proprietor of the station, was unable to estimate the amount of damage to either the station or the two automobiles, but a cursory inspection Tuesday afternoon revealed that the glass in the roll-up work bay doors was completely out. Ferland said that he believed that the damage was covered by insurance.

Ferland was also unable to give the names of the owners of the two cars. He told the Herald the work sheets on the vehicles had been lost in the blaze. Clean-up at the station continued into late Tuesday evening.



Among the bond proposals facing the voters of Rutland City in the March 5 elections is the \$25,000 request from the fire department for repairing the main fire station. Pictured above are Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, (right) and fireman John Kent, showing the narrowness of

one of the doors through which firetrucks have to enter and leave. They hope for a widening of two doors for safety's sake. Part of the proposed money would go for remodeling on the inside. Firemen are dreaming of the day when they will have a brand new firestation.

Herald Photo — Jackson

## City Firemen Contain Blaze To Kitchen

An oil range exploded Sunday at 8:43 p.m. at 95 State St., while the occupant of the apartment there, Frank Dunn, was refilling it, and city firemen responded in Engines 1, 2, 3 and the ladder truck. Neither Dunn or anyone else was injured, however.

The general alarm was sounded. Firemen were able to contain the blaze to the kitchen. The apartment, on the second floor, was damaged by heavy smoke which crept into the surrounding apartments in the building.

Scores of onlookers were on hand, brought to the scene by the fire whistle. Firemen returned to the station an hour and five minutes later.

## Granger St. Family Flees Midnight Fire

A family with five small children and an elderly man apparently escaped serious injury, but their home was badly wrecked, when a fire broke out early Tuesday at 159 Granger St. here.

The family of Jerome King, including youngsters who are 6, 4, 3, 2 and 10 months, fled shortly before 1 a.m. as flames burst out somewhere in the cellar.

An ambulance stood by to rush the children to Rutland Hospital, but only the youngest, James King, 10 months, was treated for smoke inhalation, and then released.

City Fireman Gerald Lloyd groped through the thick smoke in the dark house to lead Vernon Quelch, 75, to safety. He refused to go to the hospital, according to preliminary reports, because he was unable to save his trousers. He was taken to the home of a neighbor, Martin Casey.

The two-story frame house is owned by Theodore J. Kieffer of Rutland. It was occupied by Mrs. Nellie King, and the family of her son Jerome. Quelch is her brother. A visitor, Emmett Slade of Wallingford, was reported uninjured.

Firemen were still subduing the flames at 3 a.m. Tuesday, but the first reports said the house was extensively damaged. The thick smoke hampered firefighters. The Kings lost most of their clothing and furniture.

## Second Fire Hits House At Granger St.

Fire broke out a second time early Tuesday at 159 Granger St., and firefighters who thought they had subdued it the first time sounded a general alarm and called all available help to the battle.

It was dawn before they were able to call it quits.

The family of Mrs. Nellie King, including five small children, their father, and two other men, all escaped when the first fire broke out about 1 a.m.

Firemen gave credit to the father, Jerome King, for saving the lives of his youngsters. He ran outside when smoke poured through the house, smashed a bedroom window and hustled all the young ones to safety, one by one. The oldest was six, the youngest 10 months old.

After the family had been evacuated, firemen put out the blaze, which was believed to have started in the basement. They returned to the station shortly before 3 a.m.

About 3:40 a.m. a police cruiser on River St. Bridge saw the home ablaze again. "It looked like a Christmas tree," an officer said.

This time the fire whistle sounded the general alarm, bringing call firemen to the scene. They battled through dense oily smoke to get at flames in partitions of the two-story frame dwelling.

At one time water was so deep on the kitchen floor they had to chop a hole to let it run into the cellar. Scores of people awakened

## Fires Smoulder In Chair, Shed, Chicken Coop

The Rutland Fire Dept. was called over the weekend to fires in a chicken coop, a shed, a mattress and chair cushion, and a false alarm and a needless call.

A booster line was used on the chicken coop, a blaze at 94 N. Main St. at 11:15 p.m. Saturday. Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said the fire was "probably set by boys."

After a false alarm issuing from Box 65 at the corner of Granger and Plain Sts. at 12:44 a.m. Sunday, firemen extinguished a shed fire at 61 Plain St. at 1:30 a.m. A quantity of newspapers was the only loss, firemen said.

At 12:03 p.m. Sunday a mattress and chair cushion were damaged in the Evelyn St. Apts., Engines 1, 3, and the ladder truck answered the call.

A first report said there was a chimney fire at 37 Elm St. Sunday at 4:45 p.m. but firemen found no work upon their arrival.

by the whistle watched firefighters stalking through the smoke, casting eerie shadows in the glare of huge spotlights set up about the scene.

There was no estimate of damage to the structure, which is owned by Theodore J. Kieffer. The Kings lost most of their clothing and furnishings. They were staying with friends on Prospect St. later Tuesday.

## Store Fire Is Shrouded In Mystery

A fire in the attic of the LeFrancois & Chamberland auto supply store at 37 Strongs Ave. Sunday night was not due to natural causes, in the opinion of at least one city official Monday. But local law officers continued what they termed an "intensive investigation," and nobody was saying very much.

"As far as my investigation is concerned, I have eliminated all natural causes," said Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, who in his role as city fire marshal requested a study by the office of the state fire marshal. But that was as far as he would go.

The state investigators apparently did not get to Rutland Monday but the local Criminal Investigation Division of the city police worked on the problem all day, according to Police Chief John L. Dinn.

Neither the chief nor the division head, Lt. William Murphy, would say where their investigation was leading. The chief said he expected also to wait until the state fire marshal's man had come to the scene.

Meanwhile, at Rutland Hospital the condition of the store's owner, Oliver LeFrancois, 67, of 40 Highland Ave., was listed as "satisfactory" by his physician. LeFrancois suffered second-degree burns of the face, arms, neck, chest and back.

City firemen said they found him with the shirt burned from his back when they arrived at the store about 11 p.m. Sunday. He was rushed to the hospital by police cruiser.

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## Auto Supply Store Owner Here Burned

Oliver LeFrancois, about 60, of Highland Ave., Rutland, suffered severe burns Sunday night at a fire which broke out in the attic of his auto supply store on Strongs Ave.

LeFrancois was reported in satisfactory condition at Rutland Hospital early Monday. His physician said the man had extensive second-degree burns on the face, right arm, neck, chest and hands.

City firemen said they came upon LeFrancois in the second story of the LeFrancois & Chamberland auto wholesale supply store at 37 Strongs Ave. They had been called to the scene by an unknown man on the telephone about 11 p.m., they said.

They said LeFrancois's sister, Miss Florida LeFrancois, was with him at the time. His shirt had been burned off, firemen reported.

They promptly took him downstairs to a police cruiser and whisked him to the hospital.

The fire was confined to a small portion of the flooring in the attic above the second story, said Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski. It was easily put out with a booster line.

Firemen said the blaze did little damage, and they immediately asked for an investigation to determine its cause. Members of the Local Criminal Investigation Division were studying the circumstances early Monday and representatives from the state fire marshal were expected to be at hand later in the day.





Herald photo—Wild  
Fireman Jack Seward and Patrolman George Packard give first aid to Mrs. Lena Peters, overcome by smoke in fire at 138 Strongs Ave. early Wednesday. In background are Stanley Beauregard, who helped drag others to safety, and Fire Capt. James Rice.

## Strongs Ave. Fire Makes 16 Homeless

### Several Overcome by Smoke, Rescued by Police, Firemen.

By DICK NORTON

Two persons were hospitalized and at least three others injured as fire swept a three-story wooden tenement at 138 Strongs Ave. early Wednesday.

A total of 16 persons, including a family of eight, were left homeless by the blaze, which reportedly started in the bathroom of a ground floor resident, George Bradish.

Mrs. Julia Fox, who lived alone in a southern first-floor apartment, said she was awakened by the crackling of the flames, and ran next door in her nightclothes to awaken a neighbor, Andrew Emery of 136 Strongs Ave. Emery called Rutland police at 4:05 a.m. and said the building next door was "all afire."

While desk Sgt. Samuel Gorruso notified firemen, Patrolmen Eugene Roussil, George Packard and Robert Ballou raced to the scene. The policemen, assisted by an overnight guest at the house, Stanley Beauregard, 27, of Bridgeport, Conn., ran through the smoke to the third floor, rescuing Mrs. Pauline Turner from her smoke-filled room. Gasping and panicky, she was led outside, and was pronounced all right by a doctor.

In the midst of the smoke and confusion, Rutland police and firemen did an amazing job in preventing a fatality in the blaze. Firemen, arriving three minutes after the signal was flashed, sounded a general alarm at 4:12 a.m. They rescued several people from the burning building, including Mrs. Lena Peters, 62, and Uno Mattson, 52, both of whom were rushed to Rutland Hospital.

Mrs. Peters was carried out of the flames by Fireman Richard Lovett, who had discovered her unconscious on a bed on the first floor.

She was revived by a resuscitator and treated at the hospital for smoke poisoning. She was reported in good condition Wednesday night.

Mattson also was in satisfactory condition, according to his physician. He suffered first and second degree burns of the face, arms and back, and a laceration of the right forearm.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski reconstructed the fire in the following sequence:

Mattson, who was staying at Bradish's apartment, apparently dropped a match or cigarette accidentally on the floor of the first floor lavatory," the chief said. Bradish said there were boxes of combustible material stored in the bathroom.

The flames drove Mattson, clad only in a shirt, out of the bathroom, and he attempted to open the front door.

While groping for the doorknob, he smashed his fist through the door window, cutting his forearm. Then he went back to the Bradish apartment to put on some trousers. Evidently Mattson passed out in the room from loss of blood, since firemen found him on the floor by his bed.

Meanwhile the flames shot up through the bathroom ceiling to the second and third floor of the structure. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Reynolds and their six children were asleep on the second story.

Mrs. Reynolds awakened by

the sound of the flames cried "My God, the building is on fire."

The family made their way through the choking fumes to a front window and a porch facing Strongs Ave.

From there they were able to climb over a railing and down the stairs leading from an apartment occupied by Mrs. Joseph Bratu.

Mrs. Bratu came out of the burning house wearing a red robe and one shoe.

Her apartment was ruined by the fire, and two pet parakeets were found dead in their cages in the morning.

Four fire engines fought the flames. Firemen managed to contain the fire to the downstairs and second floor bathrooms. The Bradish and Bratu apartments were heavily damaged by smoke and water.

Three engines returned to the station at 6:05 a.m. and one was left at the scene to prevent any further outbreak.

The building is owned by Rosario Lemmo and Vincenzo Sangri-gali, both of Rutland, according to the reports of fire officials.

Firemen listed the following in the building at the time of the blaze:

Mrs. Peters, Mattson, Mrs. Turner, Bradish, Mrs. Bratu, Beauregard, Mrs. Fox, Ray Finch, Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds and the six Reynolds' children, Ralph, 14, Roland, 12, Heather, 10, Nancy, 8, Danny, 5, and Robert, 2. Nancy Reynolds cut her foot in the excitement.

The Reynolds family were taken to the city farm and given temporary quarters. They reportedly had found another home on Columbian Ave. and were in the process of moving there on Wednesday.

Chief Koltonski said, "We were very fortunate that no lives were lost in the fire. We always figured we would have a fatality if that building ever caught fire."

The chief had high praise for the police as well as those in his own department, for "quick and courageous action in the rescue and firefighting."

Firemen reported one appreciative resident of the building insisted on entering the still-smoking premises to retrieve two quarts of beer from underneath a mattress. The department declined an offer to share it.

Later in the morning, Stanley Pockette of 202 S. Main St., who had been with Beauregard prior to the fire, was discovered asleep on one of the couches in the recently burned building. Apparently, he had entered the building seeking a little rest after the excitement had subsided.

Firemen checking the burned-out room of the first floor apartment found Pockette at 6:30 a.m. and took him to Rutland Hospital, since he appeared to be partly overcome by fumes.

### Blaze in Rubbish Dock Smokes Up Ames Store

A blaze in the rubbish dock in the back of the Ames Department Store summoned three engines of the Rutland Fire Dept. to the building at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Rutland firemen reported.

Although the automatic sprinkler system had been set off, two booster lines were used to extinguish the flames, which did some damage to the rafters and roof boarding.

A moderate amount of smoke went into the main part of the store, and the smoke ejectors were used to clear the air, firemen stated.

### Vacant House Burns On Post Rd. at 5 A.M.

A vacant story and a half frame home burned to the ground early Tuesday morning, but city firemen saved a nearby garage.

The house, owned by Gladys LaValley of Burlington, according to firemen, lit up the sky "like a beacon" from the Post Rd. approximately halfway between Rtes. 7 and 4.

Firemen went to the blaze about 5 a.m. after receiving a deluge of calls, but flames had already pierced the roof by the time they arrived and they were forced to settle for saving the garage.

A host of deer hunters and a few early risers were attracted to the scene, they added.



Firemen Edward Dalto, Richard Barron and Charles Taylor struggle to pull a heavy hose into the blazing Bee Hive as water from firemen working on the roof pours down on them. The fire was still out of control when this photo was taken. Barron was later overcome with smoke.



A weary Fireman Don Moore slumps to the ground after almost being overcome with smoke in the back wing of the Bee Hive. Moore was one of the first men to enter the building, before much of the thick smoke had left the structure.

### Fire Damages Rondeau's Moving Picture Outfit

Fire caused extensive damage to a second floor room and moving picture equipment stored there in the home of Emile Rondeau of 31 Lincoln Ave. Saturday at 9:21 a.m., according to city firemen.

Rondeau said he was awakened by the smell of smoke.

Alfred H. Koltonski, fire chief, said he believed the fire was caused by a defective extension cord.

On Sunday at 4:15 p.m. an overheated pipe and chimney for a wood stove caused minor damage in the home of Al Farrar of 104 Park Ave.





Herald photo—Jackson Rutland firemen William O'Rourke (left) and Francis Walsh watch their colleague Richard Battles climb Rutland's aerial ladder Friday during the final class of the firemen's school this week conducted by Capt. Philip Renta of the Brookline (Mass.) Fire Dept. The men were familiarized with modern methods of fire fighting during the week.

## Firefighters Here Today

State Convention Scheduled  
for Weekend, Parade to  
Be Sunday.

Rutland will be host to the 73rd Vermont State Fire Fighters Assn., annual convention and parade Saturday and Sunday with firemen and fire fighting equipment pouring into the city from all over the state, and from New Hampshire, New York and Mass., Rutland Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski reported Friday.

He said the convention will open Saturday at 10 a.m. with registration at the Hotel Bardwell. At 1:30 p.m. the convention will open at the Rutland High School with a joint session of the Fire Fighters Assn. and the Ladies Auxiliary.

President Carmi Duso of Enosburg Falls will give the opening remarks, with the invocation being given by the Rev. Olof C. Johnson of Castleton. Following the prayer, Mayor John J. Daley of Rutland will welcome the delegates to the city.

Following a recess, the business session will begin with a call to order by the president.

The annual banquet will be held at Nourse Hall starting at 7 p.m. at the Episcopal Church on Church St. After the banquet will be an illustrated lecture, on "Flight to the Bottom of the World," by Danny McKay.

On Sunday, the parade, consisting of about three or four bands along with the firemen and equipment from the four state area, will begin marching at 1 p.m. The parade will form at Madison St. and South Main St. The route will be Madison St. to Strongs Ave., to Wales St., to West St., to Merchants Row and back to the fire station. The parade line will be formed at 12:30 p.m.

On Sunday at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. will be sports events at the depot parking lot, with the various departments competing. At 4 p.m., in front of the Hotel Bardwell the parade trophies will be presented by Lt. Gov. Ralph Foote. More sports contests will follow the presentation of trophies. There will also be a demonstration of the famous Godiva Fire Pump Saturday and Sunday afternoon.





Herald photo—Kyper  
Fireman Edward Dalto hacks away at floor planks on the second floor of the Bee Hive to route out the last traces of the general alarm blaze that swept through the wing. Chief Alfred H. Koltonski stated that he believed the flames originated from some wiring under this spot.

## Fire, Water Hit Beehive Building

Old Stable, Used as Storehouse in Rear, Is Burned Out.

By FRANK KYPER

Fast work by Rutland firemen extinguished a dangerous general alarm blaze in the rear of Burke's Garage and the Bee Hive clothing store on Willow St. Wednesday evening. Three firemen were overcome by smoke.

Patrolman Glenn G. Coltey reported seeing smoke and flames pouring from the frame structure at 7:45 p.m. while on his beat. Within three minutes, Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski arrived at the scene and ordered a general alarm.

Thirty-seven firemen rushed to the scene as rapidly as possible. All regular men, off-duty men and call men were summoned.

The fire apparently started in an electric junction box in the two-story wing in the rear of the building, Chief Koltonski reported. He stated the wiring was not new.

The flames flared up through the wall-board partitions on the second floor clothing storage room and were eating through the roof of the wing when firemen arrived.

Flames and heavy smoke were also reported on the third and fourth floors of the main portion of the barn-like structure.

An automatic sprinkler system in the building went off almost at the same moment that firemen started to spray the flames with their hoses.

Billowing clouds of smoke and steam held firemen at a distance momentarily, but ladders were soon erected on the west side of the wing in the alley beside Fishman's and firemen hacked through the thin wood wall with axes. The first firemen to enter the building reported heavy smoke, and oxygen masks were worn by the men following them.

Four hose lines were run to the fire. A momentary difficulty ensued when one underground pipe to a Willow St. hydrant broke and sent water rushing out around its base. There was almost four inches of water along one side of Willow St. before the water was turned off.

Willow and Edson Sts. were roped off by Rutland police.

After a half hour of furious hacking and spraying by the firemen, the flames were brought under control about 8:30 p.m. The firemen continued to search for sparks and burning embers for another hour before returning to the station.

Three firemen were overcome by smoke in the course of the struggle, and were taken to the fire station for treatment by Dr. Gordon B. Smith.

Richard Barron, his brother, James, and Don Ward were expected to recover without hospitalization. Dr. Smith reported they were not seriously affected. A number of other firemen were given oxygen at the scene.

Robert Burke, one of the owners of the structure, stated that it would probably take several days to estimate the extent of the damage. He stated that water and smoke apparently did the most harm.

The value of 14 automobiles in the garage, eight of them new, will be depreciated, Burke stated. All the smoke can never be removed from the upholstery.

Clothing stored on the upper floors of the building bore the brunt of the damage, Burke added. Shirts, overcoats and other clothing was soaked.

Burke said that he expected that he would probably tear the structure down, which he estimated was over 100 years old. It was originally a livery stable.

Chief Koltonski stated that it was the worst blaze in the heart of the city since the Wonder Store burned three or four years ago.



Herald photo—Courcelle  
Members of the Rutland Fire Department enter the smoke filled, fire gutted building which was the Nick Louras Body Shop at 9 Sheldon Pl. The department was notified of the blaze at

7:45 p. m. Tuesday, and a general alarm was sounded two minutes later. Damage was estimated at close to \$10,000 including damage to five cars. Car to left was one of those destroyed.

## Louras Body Shop Burns, Smoke Towers Over City

One Car Destroyed in Shed, Building Is Total Loss, Traffic Badly Jammed.

A general - alarm fire which lifted a pillar of black and yellow smoke above the city destroyed the Nick Louras Body Shop on 9 Sheldon Place Tuesday evening.

The Rutland Fire department received the call at 7:45 and rushed four engines to the scene. Six minutes later they had hooked up three hoses and had extinguished the worst part of the blaze. "You can write that down in any book!" one fireman on call duty was quoted as saying.

The fire, believed by Chief Alfred H. Koltonski to have been ignited by an explosion in the oil burner, was made even more potent by the presence of combustible paints, lacquers and oils in the paint shop.

An added hazard presented to firemen was the explosion of a large number of paint and lacquer cans. No men were injured, however.

After the major part of the blaze had been doused, thick billows of smoke spread over a perilous area.

A number of firemen were driven out of the building to catch a breath of air after being nearly overcome by the smoke.

Koltonski said 34 firemen fought the blaze until it was officially pronounced out at 9:15 p.m.

The chief estimated the damage as about \$7,000 to the building alone. One car inside the shop was destroyed. Three cars outside were badly scorched by the intense heat and damage to the four totaled about \$3,000.

The one-story frame building is owned by Ralph Brown of Rutland.

Six policemen were busily occupied by a traffic jam that closely resembled South Main St. during Fair Week. The fire whistle drew hundreds of curious spectators.

Firemen had returned from a blaze at the Rutland Fire Clay Co. less than an hour before they received the general alarm.

They were further harried by a call to the corner of Grove St. and State St., where they extinguished a smoldering incinerator at 9:44 p. m.

The department then returned to the normal routine of a fireman's day when a truck was called out to the corner of Wood-ford alarm about 10 p. m.

## Repair Shop Off Allen St. Burns Down

Ware Troxel, 43, and his son, Jerry, 18, were given first aid for burns Tuesday by city firemen after their repair shop near Allen St. was consumed by flames at midday, firemen said.

The shop, a frame building only about 10 by 12 feet, was left a pile of charred wreckage. Lost, firemen said, were many tools, fishing equipment and a new out-board motor.

The father and son were burned when they attempted to save some of the tools, according to firemen, who said the younger Troxel rolled in the snow to put out flames on his clothing. Firemen said the burns were not severe.

Capt. Ralph Bean of the Fire Dept. said the blaze began when fumes from "an inflammable liquid" which was being used to clean tools were ignited by a kerosene heater.

He said the building in the rear of the Allen St. trailer park was completely in flames shortly before 1 p.m. when firemen arrived.

Capt. Bean said the men, who repaired hydraulic jacks, "had a nice little business there."

## Smoky Fire Singes Shed Behind Salvation Army

Sparks from an incinerator ignited a lean-to in back of the Salvation Army building at 32 Merchants Row Tuesday evening, calling local firefighters out about 7 p.m.

Smoke was pouring into the street when three trucks from Station 1 came dashing up, but the fire was put out with two booster lines before there was any damage outside the shed.

The structure contained the little shelter used by the Salvation Army during the Christmas season on Merchants Row. It was slightly damaged by smoke and water.

The fire was out by 7:45 p.m. Firemen said an incinerator not far from the shed had been used to burn some papers earlier in the day and sparks probably landed in the shed.

## Firemen Battle Blaze In Motel Basement

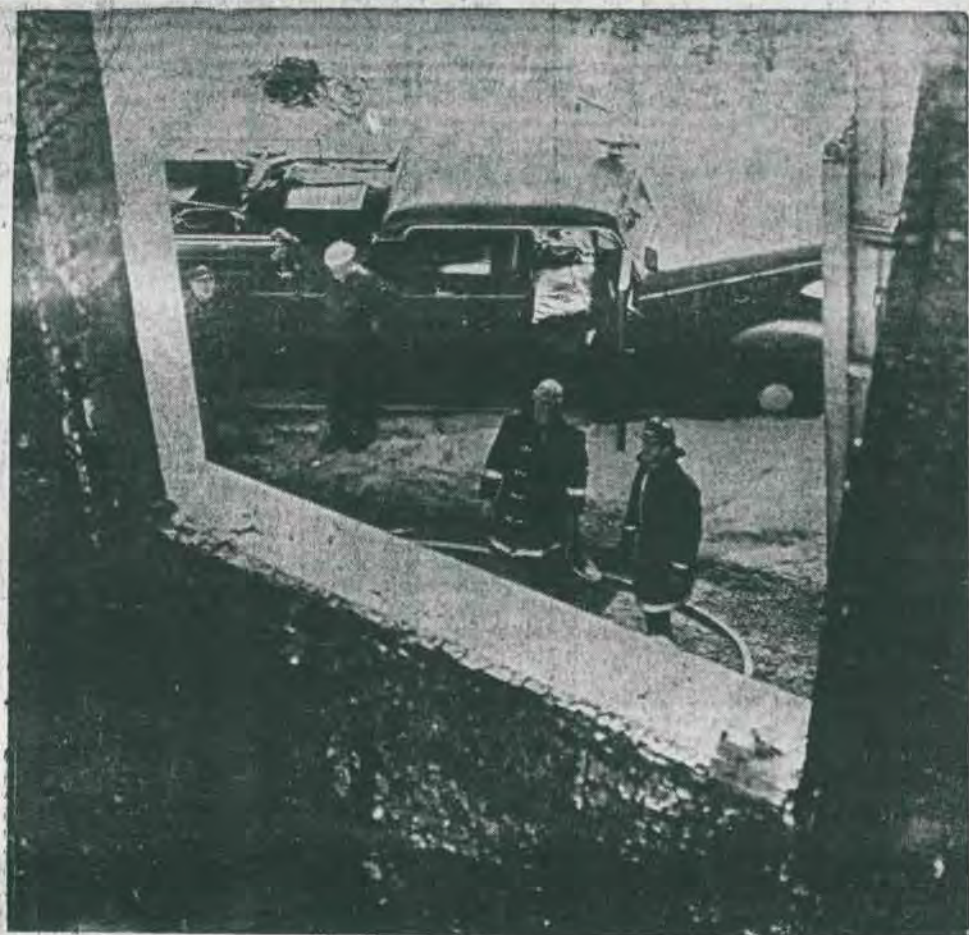
Rutland City firemen battled a blaze in the basement of the White Birch Motel at 41 North Main St. for about 30 minutes Tuesday morning before dousing it.

Delayed ignition in an oil-furnace started the blaze, theorized firemen, who arrived on the scene about 8 a.m.

Using three booster lines from Engines 1, 2 and 4 and a line from a hydrant, firemen restricted damage to the basement of the structure.

The cellar ceiling, floor and wiring and water pipes in that area were damaged.





Crewmen of the Rutland Fire Department gaze up to the charred section of a house owned by Percy P. Wood at 115 Lincoln Ave. The fire,

which broke out Sunday afternoon, caused a general alarm to which four fire trucks responded.

## Firemen Halt Blaze on Lincoln Ave.

### General Alarm Fire Scorches Rear Sections of Two-Story Structure.

Rutland City firemen used axes, oxygen masks, a smoke ejector and six hose lines to battle interior flames at the home of David Muhlborg, 115 Lincoln Ave., Sunday afternoon.

The fire whistle blew an alarm to call all off-duty firemen.

Engines 1, 2 and 3 were dispatched to the scene at 2:31 p.m. to combat the fire in the two-story wood frame structure, owned by Percy P. Wood.

The fire, which started in the

back shed of the ground floor apartment and burned its way into the attic of the unoccupied second floor apartment, was fought by 26 firemen for one hour and 14 minutes, amid a heavy concentration of smoke.

Asst. Fire Chief Ralph Bean, stated the cause of the fire has not been determined.

Bean said actual fire damage was restricted to the attic and back shed but these areas were heavily charred and some of the partitions were smashed open to get at the internal fires.

Firemen, who returned to the station at 4:13 p.m., reported Muhlborg was the only resident

and that he escaped apparent injury.

Firemen quickly extinguished a fire at the home of Mrs. Marjorie L. Olney of 136 Pearl St. at 12:45 a.m. Sunday with a booster line.

Asst. Chief Bean said Mrs. Olney and her two young children fled their second floor apartment apparently uninjured when a flooded oil burner ignited the floor and walls of the living room.

Bean stated serious injury could have resulted if Mrs. Olney had panicked for there was only one exit and that was near the flaming walls and floor.

Engines 1 and 3 returned to the station at 1:15 a.m.



Engine 2 from the Rutland Fire Dept., alongside the ruins of the Clifford Malcolm home in Mill Village. A fire which reportedly started in the kitchen, ravaged the house Saturday morning.

Firemen were dispatched back to the scene Sunday afternoon to extinguish smolderings in the basement. The family was en route to Connecticut.

## Mill Village Home Smoulders Long After Spectacular Fire

Firemen were still at the fire and water, Chief Koltonski said.

The Malcolm family had left Saturday morning for a vacation in Connecticut, were recognized by state police in Chester and notified to return.

The family is staying with friends in Rutland. The house was only partially insured, said Chief Koltonski.

Water was pumped from East Creek through 1,150 feet of hose, in battling the blaze, stated the chief. It was nearly noon before the fire was brought under control.

The fire was reported by Russ Smith's garage after flames were noticed about 8:45 a.m. Saturday, licking through the roof.

Firemen said by the time they arrived the whole roof had caved in. But they were able to save a garage in the rear only four feet from the house, and the downstairs furniture. The upstairs furniture was badly damaged by

## Maple St. Fire Lights Skies

By MERLE F. JACKSON JR.

Flames towered into city skies Wednesday night as a quick-spreading garage fire off Maple St., brought out city fire fighters in a general alarm and curious crowds of sensation seekers who swarmed eagerly to the scene.

Of unknown origin, the blaze raced through the wooden two-car structure, located behind the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hayden Bride of 115 Maple St.

Shortly after 8 p.m., the general alarm whistle sounded eerily throughout the city. Even then the flames could be seen from blocks away as smoke clouds drifted into the nearby downtown business district.

Working efficiently, fire crews directed by Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, kept the flames from igniting the Bride home. When the fire was brought under control, the garage was a gutted structure and a car inside the building destroyed.

The Brides and their four children first knew of the fire when a neighbor telephoned,

saying "Your barn is on fire." The family had been watching "Wagon Train" on television.

Despite the efficient efforts of firemen, battling the fire in zero temperatures over extremely slippery ice covered ground, the building was a total loss.

Bride said his 1957 car was ruined. He said an upstairs tenant, Raymond Cooper, was able to save a 1956 vehicle. Cooper's car however received scorched paint damage.

Bride said further he lost three lawn mowers, three children's bicycles, 15 square feet of housing siding and five aluminum windows, and tile.

The owner told Chief Alfred H. Koltonski he had no idea how the fire started. He also had no idea of a total damage figure.

Bride told Chief Koltonski there was no electricity in the garage. He said there had been a rubbish fire in a barrel outside the garage just before the fire. However, Bride said, "It could not have started from there, since there were no sparks from the barrel."

Bride expressed an opinion it might have had something to do with his car. He doubted if insurance would cover the total loss.

In the midst of the fire battle, a gas tank exploded causing the crowd to draw back anxiously.

Firemen were hampered by hydrant trouble. A nearby hydrant had been knocked over by a car recently. Another hydrant had frozen and it took some time to draw water from that location.

Brought into use later was a hydrant located on adjacent Library Ave. Bride, himself, had tried to fight the fire with a garden hose before crews arrived.

In the midst of the confusion, two off-duty city policemen attempting to keep crowds out of the way of firemen, got doused by hose spray.

JUNE 5, 1961

### Shed Burned and Garage Scorched by Main St. Fire

When four city fire engines arrived at 107 S. Main St. Saturday about 10 a. m. a shed at the rear of that address was almost completely engulfed in flames and fire had spread to the roof of a garage at 109 S. Main.

City firemen used two booster lines and laid a line from a hydrant. The shed was considered a total loss but the garage was saved.

At 1:15 p. m. Saturday firemen extinguished a grass fire at Granger St. Sunday, shortly after 11 a. m., they received a call from Granger St., but the alarm proved to be false.



# Frank Rice<sup>174</sup> Dies at 65

Commissioner of Public Works Was Ill at Hospital for Month.

Frank L. Rice, 65, Commissioner of Public Works for the City of Rutland for the past six years, died at the Rutland Hospital Friday morning after a month's illness.

Born in 1897 in West Rutland, he was the son of Patrick and Mary Ann (Lapway) Rice. He attended schools in West Rutland, St. Peter's Commercial School, and Rutland High School where



FRANK L. RICE

he distinguished himself as an outstanding athlete. His sports ability was carried to Norwich University and Catholic University in Washington, D. C.

While at Rutland High School Rice was a four-letter man, rarely seen now. After his college years he was a noted ball player in the semi-pro leagues in Montreal.

Returning to Rutland, he was employed for many years in the city engineer's office and served on the Rutland Fire Dept. 17 years. He also served as party chief for the Central Vermont Rural Electrification for five years.

He was active as city engineer under the terms of Commissioners Edward Crowley and Peter Wagner.

Six years ago, Rice stepped into the commissioner's position upon the termination of Wagner's office. During his administration, he distinguished himself nationally as the author of several technical articles which were published in the National Public Works Magazine.

Rice's pet project was the city's sewage disposal project. He also strongly favored soil cement roads, which he considered an economical and durable method of road construction.

A registered professional civil engineer, Rice was a member of the New England Water Pollution Control Assn.; the New England Waterworks Assn. and the Rutland Engineer Society. He also served as advisor for Civil Defense for the city, holding a certificate of proficiency in radiological defense.

Survivors include his wife, Carmeline (Pietrodangelo) Rice; two daughters, Mrs. Joseph Coombs of Essex Junction, and Miss Nicolina Rice of Rutland; four sons, Francis S., Richard E., Ralph H. all of Rutland, and Joseph F. Rice of Salt Lake City, Utah; eight grandchildren; three brothers, James J., William A., and Thomas Rice; nieces and nephews.

A requiem Mass will be offered at 9 a.m. at the Christ the King Church Monday. Friends may call at the Clifford Funeral Home from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.



SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 28, 1961.



Firemen work through the window of Ward & Son, an appliance store on Merchants Row, where a fire broke out early Thursday morning, causing considerable damage to the store. Many surrounding shops were also damaged by the heavy smoke.

## Ward & Sons Damaged By Smoky Fire

Fire seared Ward & Sons here Thursday and smoke drifted into the Puritan Clothing Store, Mayfair Beauty Salon, Fashion Shop, Dr. Stuart J. Pingree's office, and vacant rooms at 36 Merchants Row after a refrigerator motor overheated in Ward & Son's, according to Assistant Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean.

A general alarm for all off-duty men and equipment was radioed in by Capt. James J. Rice upon arrival at the scene of the fire which was first noticed by Robert B. Eastman, manager of Eastman's Store, across the way, about 7:13 a.m.

Firemen, wearing smoke masks, laid a main line and two auxiliary lines to put out the fire which was termed as an "intense smoulder." Engines 1, 2, 3 and the ladder truck returned to the station about 7:50 a.m.

Damage in Ward & Son, an appliance store, according to Laurence D. Ward, proprietor, and Kermit H. Coolidge, office manager, was about the floor, walls, ceiling, wiring, inventory in the basement, and the entire stock on display.

They stated the actual structural damage caused by the fire was not large, but that the great amount of smoke, which Asst. Chief Bean termed the densest he had ever seen, and heat generated by the fire caused most of the damage.

It was also related that none of the store's records were lost and that the store would continue its operations on a temporary basis. No official financial estimate was given.

The other establishments, affected by the fire, were cleared of smoke odor by a new piece of equipment, a deodorizing machine, stated Asst. Chief Bean.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 21, 1962.

## Fire Damages Landmark In Rutland City

The home of Francis McLaughlin at 262 N. Main St., formerly a schoolhouse in the 1700s, was saved from probable disaster on Tuesday by the Rutland Fire Dept. after a fire apparently caused by defective wiring broke out in the house.

The Rutland landmark, which was formerly the home of the Frederick Bishop family, as well as a schoolhouse, received extensive damage in the immediate area where the fire broke out, firemen said.

Besides the burning of clothing and the interior of the house, there was a small amount of water damage on the first floor, along with broken windows on the second floor and a damaged roof where firemen were forced to intrude in order to allow the intense heat and gas fumes to escape, fire crews reported.

Before receiving the call for the fire at the McLaughlin home, engines 1 and 3 left the station at 12:11 p.m. when they tended a fire caused by a defective furnace at 13 Evergreen Ave., the residence of James L. Mulcahy. A smoke ejector was used to emit the smoke and heavy soot caused by the backfiring of the furnace.

At 9:51 a.m., firemen responded to a call from 175 Woodstock Ave., the residence of Dr. H. Hugh Quimby, and the location of the animal hospital in the city. A flooded oil burner was the cause of the call, and firemen quickly remedied the situation.

## Fire Alarm Unanswered

The Rutland Fire Department's two-way radio was shouting about a bad fire yesterday afternoon, and the firemen didn't turn a wheel.

Two houses were burning, an orphanage was threatened, you could hear sirens in the background as frantic firefighters sent back terse messages calling for more help.

The department didn't budge. Inhuman? Well, hardly. The noise on the radio was from Baton Rouge, La.

Curious atmospheric conditions skipped the signals from the bayous of the Deep South clear to Rutland.

"Even our new ladder truck couldn't get down there in time," said a Rutland fireman.



Herald photo—Harris  
City fireman Richard Barron moves chair that caused fire at Cahee's Furniture Store on Merchants Row shortly after 10 p. m. Friday. A large crowd gathered to watch firemen rid the building of extensive smoke. Chief Alfred Koltanski reported that a cigarette in the chair was believed to be the cause.



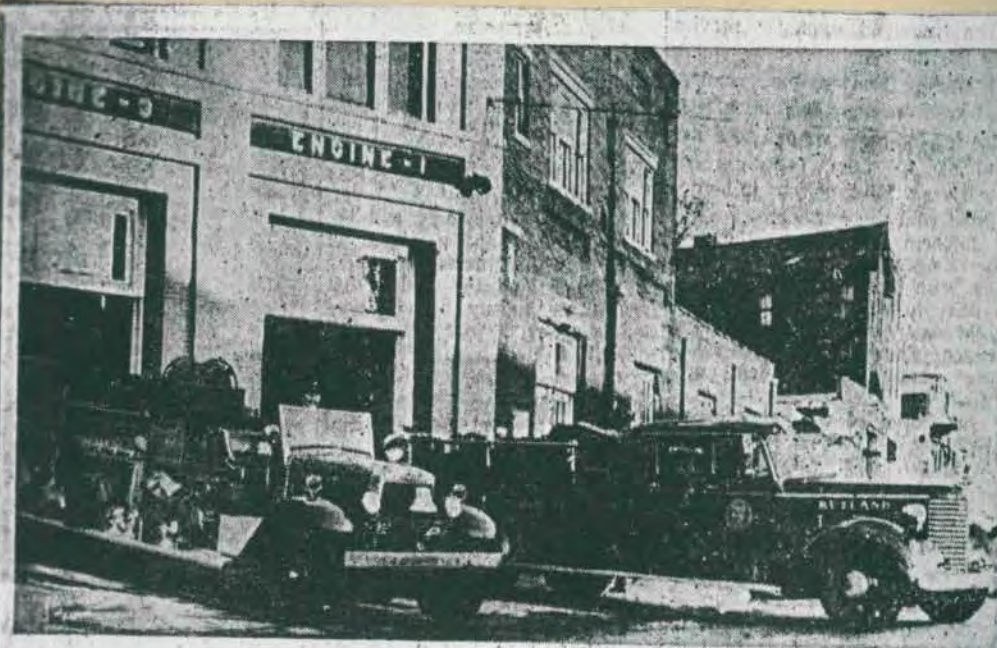
Firemen drain charred vehicle after dousing a garage fire Friday afternoon at the home of T. W. Lynch, 206 N. Main St. The car was one of two late model automobiles demolished by a blaze which took 30 minutes to bring under control. Earlier in the afternoon firemen had squelched a minor blaze at a Columbian Ave. warehouse. The causes of both fires was unknown.





After being out of commission for two weeks, Engine 3 is taken out for a test run Friday by Rutland fireman Richard Lovett. Local mechanic George Dikeman, who made the repairs, is seated beside Lovett. Standing beside

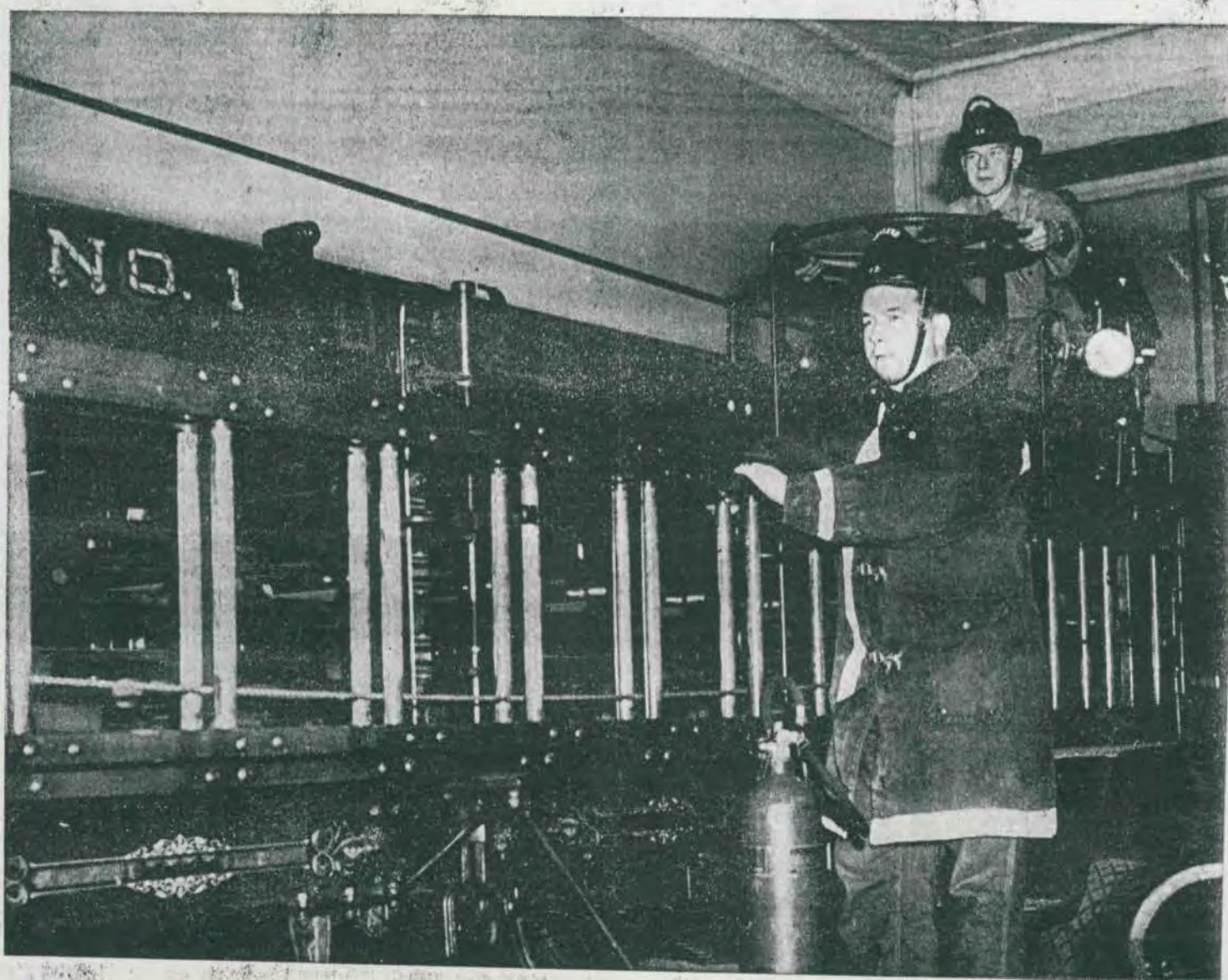
Herald photo—St. John the truck is Asst. Fire Chief Ralph Bean. The steering wheel shaft broke Dec. 13 when the truck was being returned to the station following an oil change. The truck is one of two to be replaced in March.



Engine 3 (left) and Engine 1 of the Rutland Fire Dept. are parked in front of the city fire station. Rutland voters will be asked in March to pledge the city's credit to replace these two vehicles. Engine 3 is a quadruple combination

Herald photo—Bennett pumper, ladder, hose and booster truck. It cost \$8,250 in 1936. Engine 1 is a triple combination pumper, hose and booster, bought in 1941 for \$12,500. Cost of new ones will approach \$50,000.

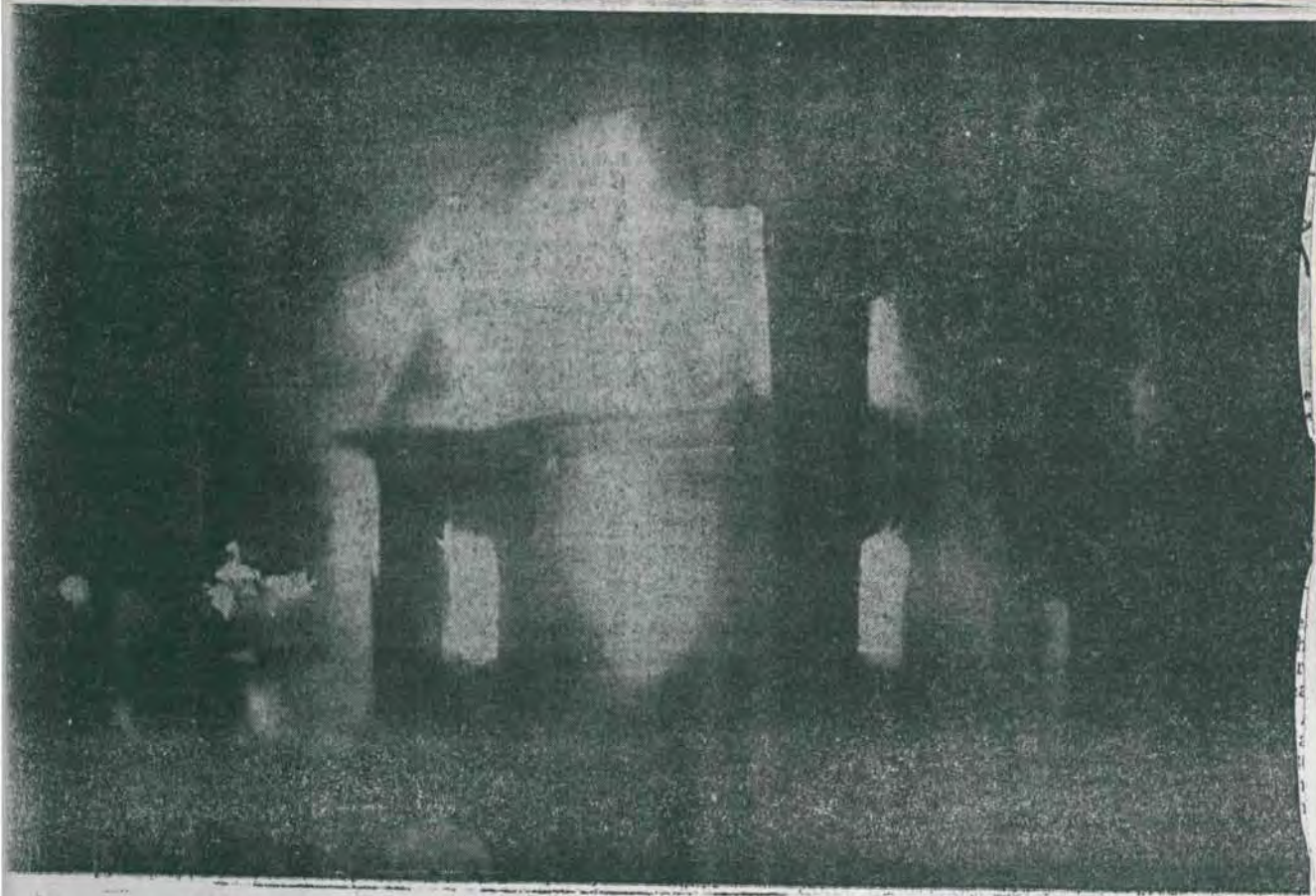
SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 29, 1956.



Aboard the Rutland City Fire Department's 27-year-old aerial ladder truck, fireman Robert C. Robinson takes the seat of the tiller man while co-worker, Richard Battles, jumps onto the vehicle's running board. The truck, older than several men in the station, is in need of repairs, causing a possible hazard in the fighting of major fires. A newer model is sought by city fire officials to aid in modern fire control for Rutland.

Herald photo—Merish





Flames roar from central section of Rutland Railway freight house on Strongs Ave. Monday evening. Herald photo—St. John

## Fire Ravages Rutland Railway Freight House

Damage Estimated at \$50,000 as Flames Roar Through Brick Structure on Strongs Ave.; Fire Marshal Called to Investigate.

By BENNY ST. JOHN

Rutland city firemen battled a general alarm blaze at the Rutland Railway freight house at Strongs Ave., opposite City Hall, for nearly three and a half hours Monday night.

Damage was estimated at \$50,000.

The Colonial Warehouse, only about 20 feet north of the blazing building, was saved from the flame by the efforts of firemen.

The fire was reported by a local youth who saw sparks leaping from the slate roof about 7 p. m. It started at a point about midway in the 400-foot brick building, according to Fire Chief Alfred Koltonski.

Thirty-five men, five vehicles and 1,700 feet of two-and-a-half-inch hose were used. It was the second general alarm blaze reported in Rutland this year.

Two firemen received minor injuries while fighting the blaze and were treated following the fire.

Firemen encountered some difficulty in entering the building, stated the chief. He said the building reportedly had not been entered since Saturday.

Using five streams of water, firemen played about 1,200 gallons of water a minute on the blaze in an attempt to prevent it from spreading into the three-story north end of the building where railroad records were stored.

In an effort to contain the fire, the 35 firemen were split up into three crews. One crew fought the interior blaze, a crew was stationed behind the building and the third unit battled the blaze from the front, according to Chief Koltonski.

But the fire worked its way into a blind attic and scorched its way along wooden joists to the north end which was eventually destroyed, according to Chief Koltonski who guessed the total damage might be about \$50,000.



City firemen spray water on roof of building during height of blaze. Herald photo—Bennett

A large gathering of local residents swarmed to watch the three fire crews maneuver about the building and prevent the fire from engulfing the wood structure Colonial Warehouse building which was within 20 feet of the freight house.

About 200 feet, from the middle of the freight building to the north end, was badly charred, stated the chief.

Gaping holes were left by the fire in the slate roof and used furniture, carpets and display cabinets, stored by Railway President William I. Ginsburg, were damaged, reported Chief Koltonski.

After containing the fire, the

(Continued on Page 10)



Apprehension shows on faces of Rutland firemen as they direct stream of water on the

Rutland Railway Freight House, which ignited early Monday evening into a general-alarm blaze. Herald photo—Bennett



# Fire Marshal Called to Inve



Capt. James J. Rice (left) and Deputy Chief Frank Seward watch flames as firemen direct steady stream.





TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 9, 1963.

# Investigate Rail Warehouse Fire

## Hundreds View Blaze

(Continued from Page One)

aerial ladder was erected and firemen extinguished the dying blaze with a steady stream of water from the deluge gun, mounted atop the ladder.

The south end of the one-story shed part of the building did not appear to be damaged, stated Chief Koltanski, who said that a state fire marshal from Montpelier will investigate the fire in an attempt to determine the cause.

Firemen Donald Moore and Raymond Gallipeau received injuries while battling the fire and were treated by Dr. William Powers.

Moore was taken to the Rutland Hospital to be treated for a broken bone in his left ankle.

Gallipeau was treated for an injury received when he stepped on a nail.

Firemen were startled into action when an excited youth rushed into the station shouting "Sparks are flying from the roof of the building across the street."

They charged out in force and went to work almost immediately. Hose lines curled across Strongs Ave. Two shifts of the local police department were pressed into service and spent the rest of the night diverting traffic from that portion of the street.

There was plenty of traffic, because as soon as the fire whistle blew, hordes of Rutlanders — off-duty firemen and just spectators — came on the run.

Fiery red flames licked the slate roof as voluminous clouds of puffy grey smoke escaped from the flame-engulfed brick structure.

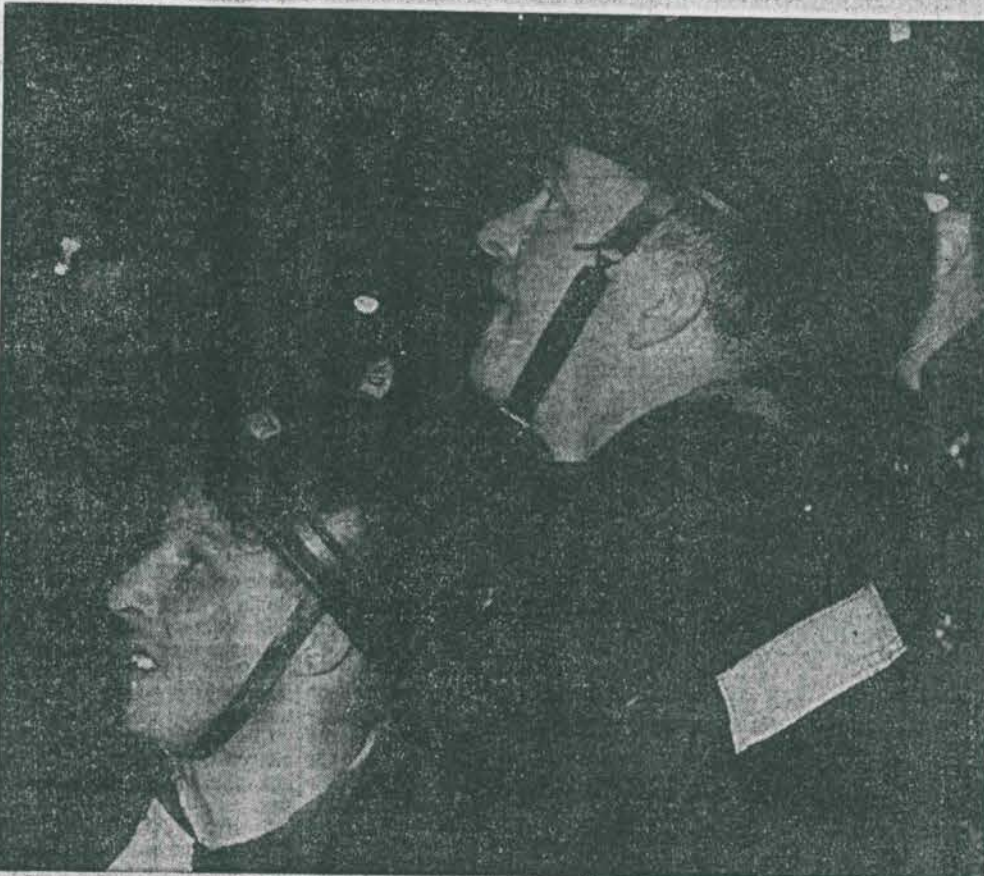
A huge pillar of smoke rolled up into the evening sky. Fire flickered evilly amid the dense clouds, and then spurted from the windows in the center of the structure.

The firemen drove the flames back with streams of water, but it blazed forth again as soon as they turned their attention elsewhere.

When the department's big flood nozzle went to work at the top of the building, the water could be seen cascading down into the second floor, directly through the flames.



City firemen have quick conference inside freight house. They poured water up into the building from the inside as well as down on it from the outside.



Firemen's faces reflect gravity of fire on their hands Monday night. Herald photos—Bennett





The charred remains of the Rutland Railway freight and warehouse on Strongs Ave. sits in the bright sunlight Tuesday. The building was ravaged by flames Monday evening. Cause of

the blaze is not yet determined, but investigators from the fire marshal's office in Montpelier are continuing their investigation. Conclusions possibly may be made Wednesday.

Herald photo—Courcelle

## Cause of Monday's Fire Still Unknown

Investigators from the State Fire Marshal's office in Montpelier traveled to Rutland Tuesday to view the destruction of the Rutland Railway's freight office on Strongs Ave. which was ravaged by fire Monday evening.

No decision was made by the investigators by late Tuesday. The two men are attempting to determine the cause of the blaze which wrought destruction upon the Rutland Railway Corp. property.

Nelson Ley and Joseph Cioffi, investigators from Montpelier, toured the charred brick building with Rutland Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski Tuesday afternoon. They will continue their investigation Wednesday.

The investigators are presently evaluating theories as to how the fire began, and estimating total damage from the blaze. Chief Koltonski stated Tuesday he thought the primary estimate of \$50,000 would prove overevaluated.

Koltonski said he felt the total damage would come under the \$50,000 amount, the sum which he estimated immediately after the four-hour long fire.

Thirty-five men, five vehicles and 1,700 feet of large water hose were used in combating the blaze. The fire crews at the station were alerted by a local youth who dashed into the office saying he had spotted sparks leaping from the slate roof of the old warehouse.

Crews answered the call at 7:05 p.m. A general alarm was sounded a few minutes later, when the extent of the blaze was realized.

Flames swept from the southern end of the 400 foot building to the northern tip of the warehouse, a

three-story combination office and storage area.

Once flames reached the northern tip of the building, efforts to douse the flames proved almost impossible. The crews, including many volunteer firemen, worked in an efficiently organized manner for over four hours before quenching the flames.

The fire was officially over at 11:40 p.m., according to Chief Koltonski. A line of hose, connected to a hydrant, was left at the scene overnight.

The building is located almost directly across Strongs Ave. from the fire station. Among the throngs watching the blaze, a group was seen viewing the chaos from the upstairs rooms of the fire station.

Fire crews were given high praise for confining the blaze to one building. Approximately 20 feet north of the warehouse stood the Colonial Warehouse.

Crews were stationed at the north end of the blazing building, constantly dousing the intensely hot flames and preventing them reaching the few yards to the next building.

Chief Koltonski reported the warehouse contained, in addition to railroad materials and records, new furniture and carpeting from one of the two hotels owned by William I. Ginsburg, president of the Rutland Railway Corp.

Firemen Donald Moore and Raymond Gallipo received injuries during the effort to extinguish the

fire. Both men were treated and are now in good condition.

About 200 feet of the structure, from the middle to the north end was badly burned, according to Koltonski.

Gaping holes, revealing the charred wreckage of the interior, were revealed to the northern tip of the building. Receiving heaviest damage to both interior and exterior was the three story section to the north end.

Two shifts of the Rutland Police Department were brought into action. The officers spent the greater portion of the night detouring congested traffic from that block of Strongs Ave.



# Quick Action by Firemen Squelches Gryphon Blaze



Herald photo—Wild Rutland fireman dumps pile of clothing amid shards of shattered plate-glass window in front of Army-Navy Store in Gryphon Building on Merchants Row, where fire burst out in basement Tuesday evening.

## Heavy Smoke Seeps Up Through Building; General Alarm Rung.

A general alarm fire burst out in the basement of the Army-Navy Store on Merchants Row, Tuesday at 6:45 p.m. and smoke damaged five stores and the Gryphon Building extensively.

But immediate action by an efficient Rutland Fire Department stopped the fire from becoming a major conflagration.

About 1,500 people gathered to watch heavy black smoke roll from the Army-Navy Store at 58 Merchants Row and the Tastee Bake Shop at 60 Merchants Row.

The smoke, according to the firemen, came from the rubber boots, heavy winter clothing, sleeping bags and tents burning in the Army-Navy Store basement.

Chief Alfred H. Koltonski stated that the fire started and was confined to the Army-Navy basement, but that smoke penetrated all six floors of the Gryphon Building, and to McClallen's Drugstore, 62 Merchants Row; Aubuchon's Inc. of 122 West St.; Tastee Bake Shop of 60 Merchants Row; the Vermont State Liquor Store of 116 West St.; and Carbine-Anderson Inc. of 56 Merchants Row.

Chief Koltonski said it was impossible to make any sort of estimate of the damage, only that it was extensive. He said investigation was under way as to the cause of the fire.

Three engines and a ladder truck responded to the alarm pulled by George Corsones, who spotted the smoke from his restaurant across the street.

The fire was under control by 7:30 p.m. and all trucks but one had returned to the station by 8:30 p.m.

All the stores involved expected they would be open, if not on Wednesday, by the end of the week.

At 7:31 p.m. two trucks left the Gryphon Building for a partition fire at the home of Mrs. Eva Crandall of 7 Stratton Rd. Firemen said the fire was caused by a short circuit in a floor plug. There was extensive smoke damage throughout the house, firemen stated.

## Fire Probe Upcoming

West Rutland Fire Chief Calls In Investigators; Block, Garages Suffer.

Stanley Pietryka, West Rutland fire chief, reported Sunday that the State Fire Marshal's office will be called to investigate the fire which swept the abandoned Flatiron Block Building and two garages on Main Street Saturday evening in West Rutland.

The fire, which began about 8:30 p.m., Saturday, destroyed a two-car garage owned by John Orzell and a one-car garage owned by Fred Gray, Pietryka said.

The abandoned Flatiron Block, also owned by Orzell, received considerable damage, said Pietryka. The fire was brought under control by 10:30 p.m. Chief Pietryka said.

The fire was a serious situation due to the closeness of several other homes and stores in the immediate area. Pietryka commented, "I'm glad the fire did not break out last Thursday, when we had the high winds."

He said the upper three floors of the Flatiron Block were "badly burned." The building is a four-story structure.

The Flatiron building was in the process of being torn down. No fire damage estimate has been made. Pietryka said a watch was kept on the fire area Saturday night. Off and on, he said, small spots would flare up.

The Rutland City Fire Department sent two trucks to the fire scene, a pumper and a ladder truck. Pietryka had praise for Rutland City's ladder truck in battling the fire in the abandoned apartment building. No injuries were reported as a result of the blaze.

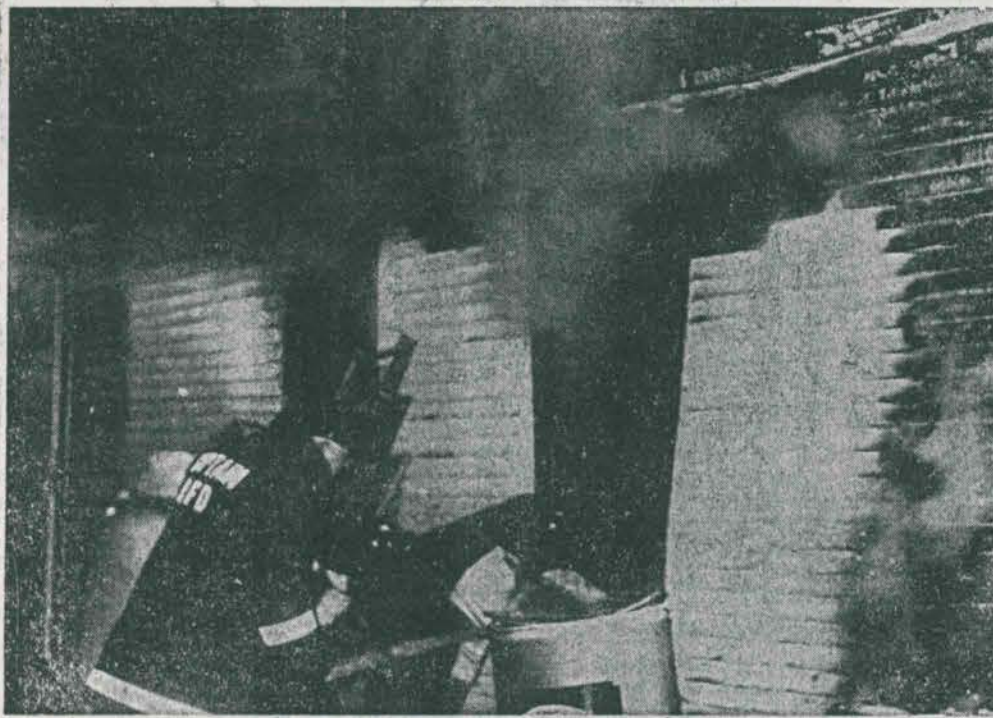
## Grass Fires Again Keep Firemen Hopping

City firemen were again harassed by grass fires Sunday. Fires were fought at 73 Grove St., 11:15 a.m.; Allen St. and Stratton Rd., 12:15 p.m.; Lincoln Ave., and N. Main St., 12:44 p.m.; and Allen St., 8:45 p.m.

The times firemen responded to and the locations they extinguished grass fires Saturday are as follows: 76 Stratton Rd., 10:28 a.m.; 181 Church St., 11:39 a.m.; North and Church Sts., 11:45 a.m.; Nichols and Williams St., 11:55 a.m.; 56 Cherry St., 12:10 p.m.; 181 Creek Road, 12:10 p.m.; city dump, 2:21 p.m. and Meadow St. 7:50 p.m.

Firemen responded to a false alarm at the corner of West and Forest Sts. Saturday at 11 p.m. The alarm was turned in at Box 19, stated firemen who dispatched engines 1 and 4 to the area.





Rutland firemen battle blaze Friday night at Cedardale Dairy Bar in Rutland Town. The eating establishment, which only reopened last

Herald photo—Jackson Friday for the season, was extensively damaged. Total damage and cause of the blaze were not known.

## Fire Damages Cedardale Dairy Bar

By MERLE JACKSON JR.

After only opening last Friday, the Cedardale Dairy Bar in Rutland Town is again closed. Fire late Friday night half gutted the eating place.

The fire, of unknown origin, was discovered about 10:30 p.m. and was brought under control only after it extensively damaged the rear section of the establishment.

The main front part received considerable smoke and water damage. Firemen from Rutland City and Pittsford answered the alarm.

Edward North of Mendon, operator of the dairy bar with his wife, reported they had no idea how the

Rutland Town Establishment, Open Only a Week, Wrecked by Blaze.

fire started. They also had no estimate at total damage costs.

North said: "I have some insurance."

With fire engines at the scene the area quickly became congested. Spectators eagerly crowded about. State police took over traffic control. Route 7 was closed for about an hour and a half.

Water was obtained from a nearby pond. With the exception of the task of clearing excessive

smoke, firemen had the fire under control by about 11 p.m.

Kenneth Bardwell, cook, said the fire was discovered shortly after a few customers left. He and the North couple were about to have a coffee break.

He said he went to open the rear section door, when the fire "just burst through." Bardwell stated the fire definitely did not start in the kitchen.

Nearby buildings, including a cattle barn owned by Orin Thomas & Sons, were not touched by the fire.

Firemen were required to wear smoke masks in the battle. No personal injuries were reported.



Fire Capt. James Rice and fireman Arthur Myhre of Rutland at smoke-filled door at rear of Cedardale Dairy Bar in Rutland Town late Friday night.



# City Firemen Save Girl's Life

**Teenager Revived After She Is Overcome by Smoke in Fire at Home.**

Immediate mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and administration of oxygen by Rutland City firemen snatched the life of a 14-year-old Rutland girl from death's embrace Monday afternoon.

Christine Rose, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rose of 68 Phillips St., was reported in good condition at the Rutland Hospital Monday night by Dr. A. H. Bellerose, who treated her for smoke inhalation.

At 4:35 p.m. Monday, Christine placed an emergency telephone call to the fire station. She was home alone.

"68 Phillips," the girl gasped. The connection went dead. Engines 2 and 3 sped to the scene.

Firemen Gerald Moore and Charles Taylor found the girl lying unconscious in a first floor room near the telephone.

A host of area residents converged on the scene as Moore, carrying the limp body and applying mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, emerged from the two-story wood frame dwelling as other firemen rushed into the house to combat a blaze in a second floor bedroom.

"Breathe deep. I know it hurts, but breathe deep honey. It's good for you," instructed Fire Capt. Ralph Bean as fireman Frank Walsh administered oxygen.

The inert girl emitted nearly inaudible gasps and chokes, and responded to the oxygen administration after about 18 minutes.

She was taken to the hospital in an ambulance where the doctor said the smoke inhalation had reached a serious stage.

"The firemen probably saved her life," said the doctor.

Using booster lines firemen extinguished the second floor fire which apparently started in a closet and burned clothing, a chair and other items.



Rutland firemen prepare to administer oxygen to Christine Rose, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rose of 68 Phillips St., who was felled by smoke at her home Monday afternoon.

Herald photo—St. John Dr. A. H. Bellerose treated the girl for smoke inhalation and reported that she was in good condition at the Rutland Hospital Monday night. Firemen were credited for saving the girl's life.

## General Alarm Fire Doused On North Main

City firemen made short work of a fire at the residence of Glen H. Perkins, of 189 N. Main St. Monday.

The first call was received at the station at 8:20 a.m. and a general alarm was sounded at 8:35 a.m.

Engines 1, 2, 3 and 4 responded to the wooden frame dwelling. The fire apparently started from an auxiliary wood burning stove in the basement.

The fire mushroomed up the chimney to the attic damaging the living quarters of Roger P. Doaner.

Firemen had to open partitions on the two floors and the floor of the attic to get to the fire. Three booster lines were used to combat the blaze.

The fire concentrated around the chimney which was boxed in from the cellar to the attic. This added fuel to the fire.

There was a heavy concentration of smoke and a smoke ejector was used to clear the building. The engines were back in the station at 9:30 a.m.

Firemen reported Monday evening that Perkins had just put some papers in the stove and either some sparks fell near combustible material or the stove overheated.

## City Firemen, Volunteers Stop Fast-Burning Brush Fire

By MERLE JACKSON JR.

Rutland City firemen stopped a fast burning brush fire Sunday afternoon under power transmission lines off Killington Avenue before it became a dangerous forest fire.

Capt. James Rice and four firemen, with the help of several young volunteers held the fire to an area 100 yards wide and one-quarter of a mile long. High winds and dry conditions made it a potentially dangerous affair.

Firemen fought the blaze from about 3:30 p.m. to about 5:45 p.m. No one was hurt battling the fire. The cause of the fire was not determined.

The power lines are owned by the Central Vermont Public Service Corp. and the Vermont Electric Power Inc. The power poles and lines were not damaged. Chief Alfred H. Kolonski and James Wilkinson, local state forester, reminded Sunday there is a "high forest fire danger" existing in the state. Long awaited rain Sunday evening, however, helped the situation. Officials still urge extreme caution in the use of fire in the out-of-doors. Persons burning rubbish or brush outside of an incinerator still need permission from local fire departments or fire wardens.

The area burned Sunday was

just over the city line in Rutland Town.

"If there were more pine trees in the area," Capt. Rice said, "we might not have been able to stop it."

He said he and his men were lucky in putting it out so soon. Thomas Patch of Rutland Town and Gael Joyal of Rutland City were among the youngsters who volunteered to fight the fire.

Rice reported a Rutland fire truck with two men patrolled Killington Avenue and the Town Line Road just in case the fire spread to that area. Pack pumps and a booster line belonging to Engine No. 4 with 300 gallons of water were used at the fire scene.



Herald photo — Jackson Rutland City fireman Richard Barron does his part Sunday afternoon battling a brush fire under power transmission lines off Killington Avenue. He is using a pack pump. Chief Alfred H. Kolonski praised his men for preventing what might have developed into a forest fire.

## Fast Firemen Stop Mission Chimney Blaze

The Rutland City Fire Department extinguished a chimney fire at the Rutland Mission Inc. on Pine Street Monday at 5:05 p.m. in jig time.

The old Kingsley School building uses a wood burning furnace. Flames were shooting about 10 feet in the air when the fire was noticed by a passerby.

This person notified George Looker, the owner of the building, who called the firemen.

"In two minutes exactly, the ladder truck was in the yard of the school," Looker said.

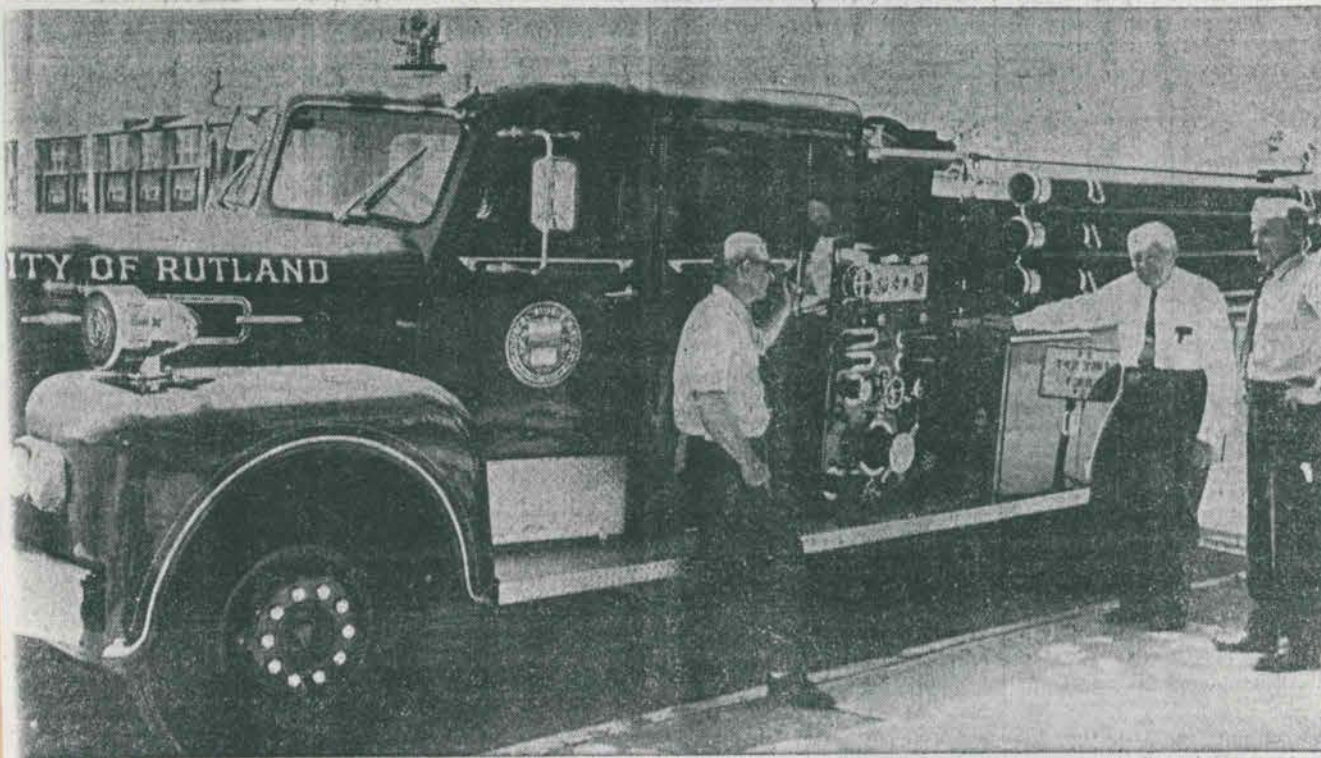
Fifteen men were living in the dwelling, according to Looker.

"We can consider ourselves very fortunate," Looker stated, "that we have such an efficient fire department."

The firefighters used a booster hose to extinguish the blaze.

Engine 1, Engine 3 and Ladder 1 were back at the fire station at 5:35 p.m.

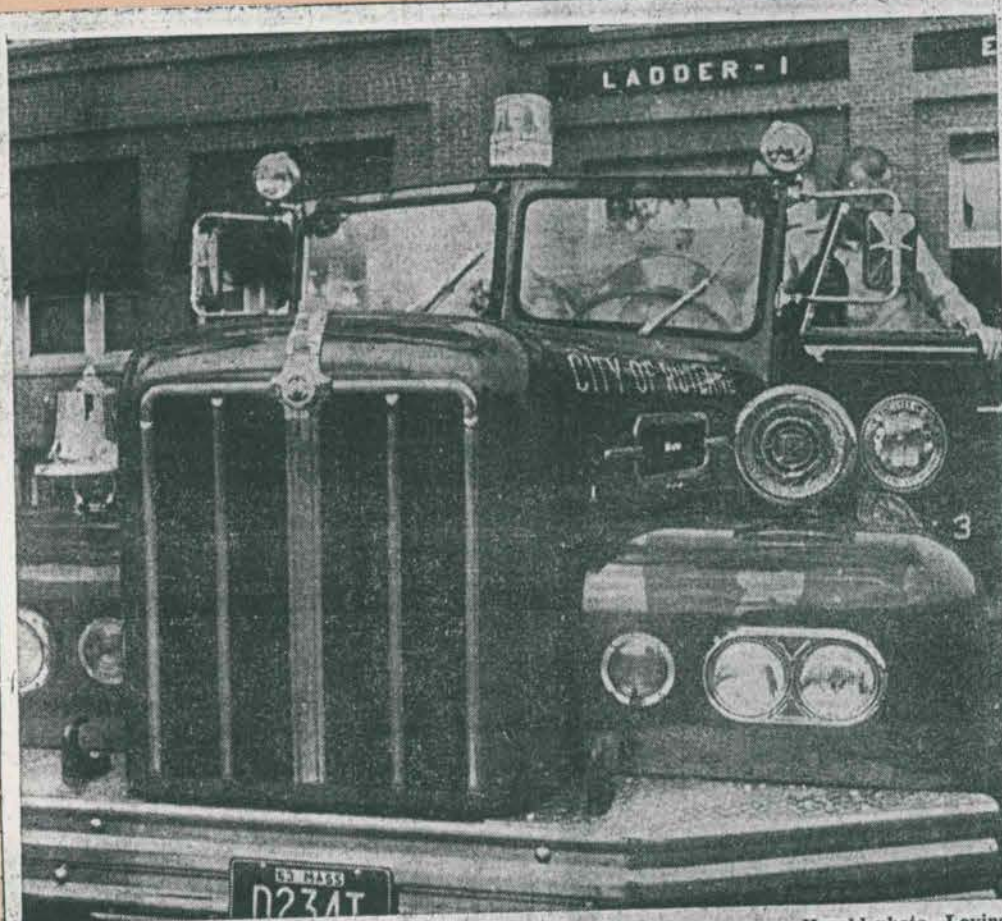




Looking over the Rutland Fire Department's newest addition are (from left): John Kent, Chief Alfred Koltonski and Assistant Chief Frank Seward. The new engine, a 1,000-gallon per minute

pumper with a 500-gallon booster, replaces the 22-year-old engine No. 1. The engine is also equipped with a portable pump and a 1,500-watt alternator for flood lighting.

Herald photo—Marro



Fireman Dave Seward puts a polish on brand new Engine 3, delivered Thursday to Rut-

land Fire Department. Funds were voted by citizens to purchase truck.

Herald photo—Levins

## Engine 3 Bows to Red and Gold Baby

Rutland's newest fire engine arrived Thursday, and firemen treated it with the tenderness due a new born baby.

The red, gold-trimmed \$30,000 vehicle arrived about 6:30 p.m. after a suspense-filled afternoon of waiting.

Complete with 1,800 feet of 2½-inch hose, 500 feet of 1½-inch hose, a 750-gallon-per-minute pump, a 300-gallon booster, a 35-foot extension ladder, two 28-foot extension ladders, a 24-foot extension ladder, a 20-foot roof ladder and a 16-foot extension ladder, the engine received about five minutes of silent admiration from firemen before they fell to with hoses, soap and water to freshen up the new addition to the fire department.

Onlookers clustered about the engine during its clean-up and peppered questions at the firemen, who were only too happy to answer.

Meanwhile, like a spurned lover, old engine 3 stood parked by the curb, wrapped in a canvas shroud and evicted from its time-worn spot in the firehouse.

Purchased in 1936 at a cost of \$8,250, and already sold second-hand to a town fire department, old engine 3 has "taken a lot of hard work in stride," according to Chief Alfred Koltonski. "That engine certainly doesn't owe the city any money," Koltonski said proudly.





Holding two of her four children, Mrs. Letus H. Reid of 188 Stratton Road, peers forlornly at the charred second floor of her home where she rescued her three-year-old son, Dan-

ny (in picture), after a fire broke out in the room Tuesday evening. Rutland city firemen doused the blaze which caused considerable damage to the wood frame building.

## Mother Rescues Tot From Blaze

### Fire Starts in Attic and Wrecks Home at 188 Stratton Road.

Fire wrecked the wood frame home of Mrs. Letus H. Reid, at 188 Stratton Road Tuesday evening, but she saved her young son from harm.

The blaze caused considerable fire, smoke and water damage before it was whipped.

Engines 1, 2 and 3 sped to the scene at about 8:04 p.m. and had the blaze under control by 9:15 p.m.

Using two booster lines and 1½-inch hose from engine one, 11 Rutland City firemen battled the blaze to a standstill before an excited crowd of neighbors.

Clapboards, windows and insulation were torn from the structure to allow the water to drench the blazing partitions.

From inside and outside, firemen directed streams of water on the blaze from the 500-gallon water tank on engine one, which was constantly being replenished from a line to a nearby hydrant.

Mrs. Reid, who was away, returned in time to rescue her three-year-old son, Danny, from a second floor bedroom, forlornly peered at the damaged building as her other three children gathered around her.

The fire probably started from spontaneous combustion theorized Capt. Ralph Bean of the Fire department.

Bean reported the fire apparently started in a blind attic and burned its way down to the first floor.

About six chairs, a kitchen table, a sofa and an armful of clothes appeared to be the only items that were salvaged.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski advised Rutland residents to make sure that their attics are adequately ventilated.

Spontaneous combustion, he said, is more likely to occur in hot weather such as Rutland has been experiencing.

### FIREMEN DOUSE FIRE IN CAR ON MAIN ST.

Busy Rutland firemen were hurried out Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. to the South Main St. Fairground's gate to squelch a car fire. The car is owned by Ralph Fuller Jr. of 20 Engrem Ave.

## Children Carry Tots From Fire

### Youngsters Keep Heads During Kitchen Blaze; No Injuries Result.

By TOM SLAYTON

Two local youngsters kept their heads during a kitchen fire in their home early Monday morning and carried their baby sisters down two dark flights of stairs to safety.

Mary Lou Barrett, 11, of 233 S. Main St., was the first in her family of seven to become aware of the fire. She got up, and according to her mother, Mrs. Charles Barrett, Mary Lou then yelled, "Mommy, there's a fire!"

Mary Lou then picked up her infant sister and carried her downstairs to the side yard of the building. Her brother, Wil-

liam, 10, picked up Kim Marie, 3, and carried her downstairs to the same side yard.

Mrs. Barrett said that both children had been "just wonderful."

Firemen arrived at the Barrett's upstairs apartment at about 2 a.m., Monday and extinguished the fire. It occurred in the northeast corner of the kitchen, and damage was confined to that area and to a stairwell adjacent to the corner. There was no cost estimate of the amount of damage available. Mrs. Barrett was uncertain as to what might have been the cause of the blaze.

Two fire engines were sent to the scene, and both had returned to the station with their job done by 2:30 Monday morning. No injuries resulted from the fire.

MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 13, 1964.



A general alarm, a lot of fire equipment and scores of onlookers surrounded this fire at Ray Beane Inc., Wales Street tire supplier, Saturday morning. Smoke permeated the en-

tire structure and the lights went out so the damage has not been viewed. Monday the lights will be restored. Quick action by the Rutland City Fire Department was evident.





Clouds of smoke roll skyward as Rutland firemen battle fire at 202 South Main St. Tuesday  
Herald photo — St. John

## Fire Wrecks Tenement, Two Families Homeless

**Hundreds Watch S. Main St. Blaze as Thundering  
Flames Collapse Roof, Gut Building; Total of  
13 Children, Three Adults Lose Belongings.**

By GERI GATES

While over a thousand people watched, a mass of raging flames thundered through a two-family home at 202 S. Main St. late Tuesday afternoon and rendered it a total loss. No one was injured.

By Tuesday evening, donations were already being asked for the two families who fled to a nearby home and watched helplessly while flames shot through the roof and destroyed food, clothing and all the belongings of the families.

The two families involved were Mrs. Pauline Driscoll who has five children, and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bizon, who have eight children, including a newborn baby.

Although a troublesome north-west wind whipped the flames, it didn't cause the Rutland Fire Department particular trouble. Firemen arrived in four trucks about 4:45 p. m. and had the fire almost out by 6:30 p. m. Firemen arrived back at the station at 8:20 p. m.

During the blaze the railway tracks, high on a hill behind the house, became a grandstand for hundreds of people. Hundreds more watched from other vantage points. The fire was spectacular, with smoke and flame shooting through the roof.

The house was owned by Mrs. Laura Billings of 56½ West St.

A grass fire in the back of the house which spread to a 55-gallon kerosene drum on the back porch caused the fire, according to Chief Alfred H. Koltonski. No one knows how the grass fire started, the chief stated.

The kerosene drum was connected directly to the stove in

Mrs. Driscoll's kitchen. Mrs. Driscoll said that she tried to throw water on the flames which intruded suddenly into her apartment, but they only increased in vigor. She then grabbed her child and fled to the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Oney, next door, at 202 B South Main St., as did Mrs. Bizon.

Bizon, a taxi driver, arrived in time to save a television set, a record player and a sewing machine.

Chief Koltonski said that the house originally was a 2½-story barn which had been converted into an apartment house. Once the flames touched the kerosene tank, they spread rapidly, Koltonski said, due to the wind and the condition of the house which was old and dry. Koltonski said the department had many other previous calls to the house, especially to put out chimney fires.

The chief said the back part of the house, where the fire started, had been condemned by city officials some time ago.

Although no firemen were reported injured, several jumped out of a second story window onto the roof of a side porch



## Tenement Destroyed

(Continued from Page One)

only moments before about half of the roof collapsed.

For Mrs. Driscoll, it was the second such tragedy in a year. Last year she had lost everything when her apartment at 78 Harrison Ave., was burned completely after a fire started from a flooded oil burner.

Police Chief John Dinn was on hand directing traffic along Route 7 at the fairgrounds after the fire caused traffic congestion along Route 7 and Park Street.

The police expertly detoured traffic up Jackson Avenue and Killington Avenue to Stratton Road, coming back to Route 7 by way of Curtis Avenue. They had to cope with the 5 p. m. rush-hour traffic of people getting out of downtown shops.

Rutland firemen had three other calls during the South Main Street conflagration. A service truck answered two calls to put out a grass fire at the Tampax Inc. lot. Another call to put out an automobile fire at North Main Street and Woodstock Avenue was canceled after the fire was quenched by people at the scene.

Anyone who would like to give clothing, furniture and other articles to the families involved should get in touch with Mrs. Martha DePoy, who is city commissioner of welfare.

Mrs. John Martin, president of the Southeast School Parent-Teacher Association is specially requesting her school children to bring in clothing on Wednesday for the children of the two families involved.

In addition, Frank DeLoria of the Variety Store at 176 S. Main St., not far from the fire scene, said he was making up food baskets for the stricken families and would make his store the headquarters for contributions from other people, if they desired.

Firemen had to return to the gutted house about 11:45 p. m. after a small flare-up. One truck went on the call.



Perched on his father's shoulders, this child and over 1,000 other spectators watch Rutland City firemen battle a blaze at 202 S. Main St.

The two-story, wood frame house was destroyed. Two families were left homeless. They lost the bulk of their belongings.



Rutland firemen aim streams of water at the rear part of the two-family home at 202 S. Main St. late Tuesday afternoon. The home was total-

ly destroyed by the flames said to have originated from a grass fire, which spread to a 55-gallon kerosene drum on the back porch.

## Fires, Fires Everywhere

A barn was scorched and several other buildings threatened in a grass fire at Killington Avenue and Town Line Road Monday noon.

Four city firemen aboard Engine One went to the scene where they were joined later by another four men riding Engine Four.

The fire was put out by 12:45. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said the blaze touched the property of several people.

Town Fire Warden George Livak was also called to the scene.

Before going to help at Killington Avenue, Engine Four answered a call at 15 Stratton Road, where a grass fire endangered gas tanks, at about 11:50 a.m. The fire was put out before it hit the tanks.

Engine Four then went to a fire at the city dump at noon and, while there received the call to go to Killington.

Other grass fires of the day

were at Grand View Acres at about 12:50 in which buildings were threatened; Bellevue Avenue and Temple Street, 4:30; Stratton Road and Giorgetti Boulevard, 6:15; and St. John St., 7:45.

On Sunday they battled grass fires at Southern Boulevard about 8:30 p.m.; at 198 North Main St. about 8 p.m.; at 55 Strongs Ave. about 4 p.m.; at 173 West St. about 4 p.m.; at 29 N. Main St. about 3:15 p.m.; at 99 Allen St., about 2:15 p.m.; at 62 Church St. about 1:58 p.m. and at 163 Forest St. about 12:50 p.m.

Sunday, about 1:35 p.m., a grass fire threatened a truck owned by the H. A. Eddy Oil Co. at 235 Coolidge Ave.

The truck received minor rear damage, according to firemen.

Firemen fought grass fires Saturday at 121 Harrington Ave. about 8:35 p.m. and at 144 Baxter St. about 3:30 p.m.





Rutland firemen extinguish flames on one of three cow barns that turned into a roaring inferno early Sunday morning at the Rutland Fairgrounds. Fire and smoke can be seen in

the foreground from the remains of two barns that were burned to the ground. There was no livestock in the barns at the time and the cause of the blaze is not known.

## Fire Levels Two Cattle Barns at Fair

### Unscheduled Excitement at Close of Week Results From General Alarm Blaze.

Scores of spectators watched an exciting unscheduled show Sunday about 12:30 a.m. at the Rutland Fair as a general alarm fire struck three cow barns.

Two of the barns were burned to the ground.

The other one was gutted, but the fire was put out before it fell.

No one was hurt. Fair officials said there were no cows in the barns.

The animals had been removed from the old dry wooden buildings Saturday afternoon, as the Fair closed.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and Sgt. Robert Richardson of the state Fire Marshal's office reported they checked the scene of the fire Sunday and will do so again Monday. They reported the cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

Chief Koltonski said his men fought the blaze Sunday from about 12:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. when it was brought under control.

By 4 a.m., he said, it was all over, except for some smoldering. A watch was kept on the fire in case of another flare-up.

Chief Koltonski said: "It was a fast-burning fire due to the fact the buildings were old and filled with hay."

He said his men performed before a big crowd.

Edward G. Congdon of Clarendon, president of the Fair, said Sunday the total dollar loss for the buildings has not yet been determined. He said the buildings were insured.

## Ralph R. (Cap) Bean Retires After 44 Years as a Fireman

By BENNY ST. JOHN

Asst. Fire Chief Ralph R. Bean has retired from the Rutland City Fire Department.

Fire Chief Alfred Koltonski stated Thursday that Bean stepped down Dec. 12.

Apparently the 70-year-old fireman retired due to failing health.

Since he left his post he was admitted to the Veterans Hospital at White River Junction, Koltonski reported.

Bean had served as a Rutland fireman for over 44 years. He joined the department May 6, 1920. He had worked for the Rutland Railroad before that.

Four years after joining the department, Bean was promoted to captain, and in 1930 to assistant fire chief. He had held that title until his retirement.

"He was one of the best firemen we had," Koltonski said Thursday. "He had lots of guts, good judgment, and he was faithful," the chief added.

Mayor John J. Daley noted Thursday that not only was Bean a dedicated fireman, but he always kept himself neat and looking like a fireman.

"He would have made general if he were in the Marine Corps," Daley said.

Although Bean is 70 years old he looks and acts much younger. Occasionally he would comment that he could climb a ladder with as much ease as the other firemen.

Because of his outspokenness, Bean had one run-in with city officials over policy. If he didn't think things were being run right he would say so.

His verbal blasts landed him in the mayor's office not too long ago, face to face with the mayor, the fire chief and an aldermanic committee. Bean had complained the administration was having the wrong door widened at the fire station. He thought one of the other bay doors should have been widened first.

Besides being frank, Bean is



RALPH R. BEAN

also an avid fisherman. During the moments he wasn't fishing he enjoyed fly tying. Bean spent many hours sitting at his window in the fire station tying what flies he thought he would need during the fishing season.

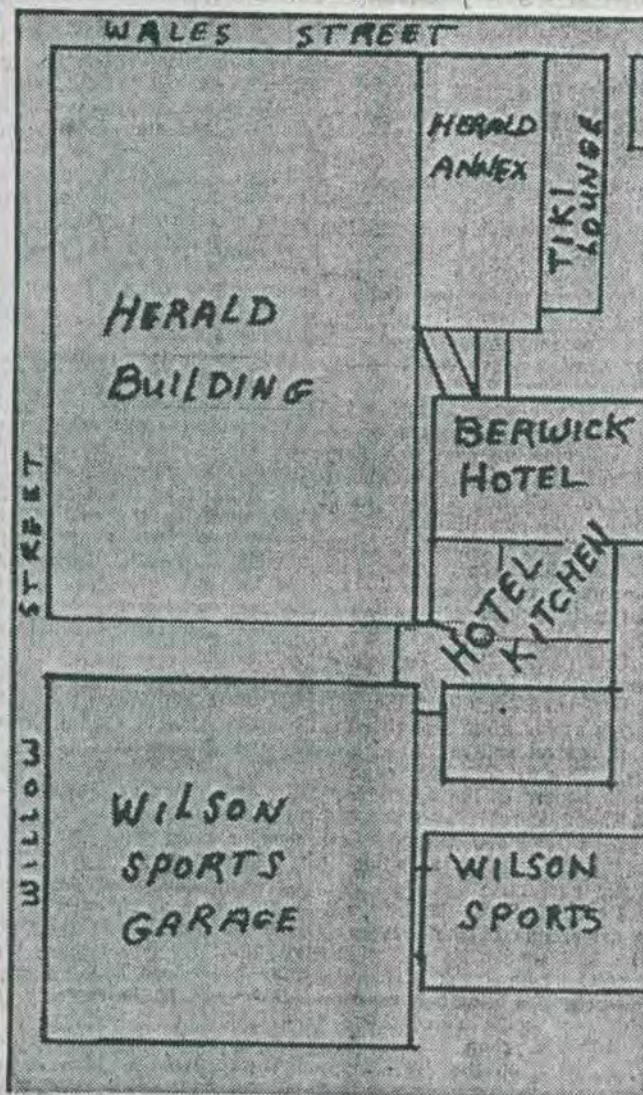
Since Bean's retirement Chief Koltonski has promoted Frank Seward to first assistant chief. Seward, who joined the department in 1924, was second assistant chief.

Capt. James Rice, who has been a fireman for about 37 years, has been promoted to second assistant chief, and John Olson has been appointed captain. Koltonski reported.



MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 7, 1964.

# Fire Guts Storeroom and Kitchen in Downtown Rutland Hotel



Hotel Berwick former kitchen at right center of this diagram is where the general alarm fire Sunday afternoon began. Firemen attacked the blaze from the alley between the Herald building and the Wilson Sports Equipment Co. garage, and from the rear of the Hotel Berwick and the roof of Wilson Sports. Smoke permeated the hotel, the Pike Insurance Agency, Paul's Cleaners and the Singer Sewing Machine Co. store. Kitchen was used for storage purposes only.

## Section's Most Dangerous Blaze in Several Years Damages Berwick.

A smoky blaze in the back part of the Hotel Berwick brought on a general alarm call here Sunday afternoon, but firemen kept the flames from spreading and averted what could have been one of the business district's worst fires in several years.

Three neighboring departments sent men and equipment to help.

The firefighters had to grope through a rabbit-warren of corridors and alleys through dense clouds of oily smoke.

There were a couple of cases of smoke inhalation, but no serious injury.

All 17 guests of the newly-reopened hotel were evacuated safely. The main part of the hotel — and the surrounding buildings — sustained only smoke damage.

The fire scene was a wooden section of the hotel at Wales and Center Streets, formerly used as the main hotel kitchen, and recently used as a storeroom. It was to have been reopened as a kitchen soon, the hotel's owner said.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said the fire apparently started in a pile of rubbish under the storeroom, and quickly spread.

The first call to the department came from The Herald about 3:30 p.m. A woman — in the excitement nobody got her name — dashed into the newsroom and gave the word.

The fire scene was right next to the southwest corner of The Herald's composing room. The composing room windows were red with the glare of flames belching from the second-story kitchen windows in the alley only a few feet away. The alley leads to Willow Street.

Chief Koltonski estimated, from the advanced state of the fire when his men first arrived, that it had been burning about 15 minutes.

Several people reported hearing a small explosion — which Koltonski said was probably a hot-air explosion — a few minutes before the alarm was sounded.

Fire trucks arrived at the scene within minutes after the call, and firemen promptly asked for the general alarm. The only ready entrance to the storeroom, through the alley between The Herald building and Wilson's Sporting Goods warehouse, was nearly sealed off by fire and smoke.

The old passage between the kitchen and the Tiki Lounge on Wales Street had been closed off. The hotel was reopened Nov. 15 after undergoing extensive redecoration inside and out.

About 40 firemen and volunteers, assisted by West Rutland, Proctor and Pittsford fire departments, fought the blaze for an hour before they had it under control.

Using three lines of hose, they attacked the fire from the alley, through the front lobby of the hotel which opens onto Center Street, and from the roof of an adjacent building. Once they gained entrance into the storeroom they were handicapped by a triple ceiling between the first and second floors.

Repeatedly the firefighters swarmed in after beating down flames dancing on the roof of the kitchen section. Repeatedly they were driven back by thick gobs of smoke that would billow out of the partitions, sending them coughing and gasping for fresh air.

Chief Koltonski said the fire was particularly dangerous because of the location of the building. All buildings on the north side of Center Street were exposed to the flames, as well as the rest of the hotel.

"If it had gotten to the main

(Continued on Page 13)



Herald photo — Bennett  
Rutland Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski (in white hat) yells instructions to city firemen on the ground below kitchen of Hotel Berwick, where general alarm fire boiled up Sunday afternoon.



Herald photo — Bennett  
Some of the several hundred that watched Sunday's general alarm fire stand outside the Herald on Willow Street and peer upward over fire truck at firemen fighting blaze.



# Fire Guts Part of Hotel

(Continued from Page One)

building it would have been real trouble," said Koltonski.

Preventing fire from spreading was the firemen's main concern. The Pike Insurance Agency, Paul's Dry Cleaners, and Singer Company, all on Center Street, had some smoke damage, but the fire did not get into the buildings.

Firemen stayed at the scene until after 8 p.m., checking for sparks, and were called back at 10:15 p.m. to extinguish a small blaze which reignited.

A crowd estimated at more than 300 stood in sub-freezing weather to watch the fire, which covered the downtown area with smoke.

The Rutland Police Department had 20 men at the scene, and Koltonski said they were very helpful in blocking off the area and keeping spectators out of the way. Chief John L. Dinn and Acting Capt. Samuel C. Gorruso directed the policemen, who were gathered for the annual meeting of the Rutland Police Benevolent Association when the fire alarm sounded.

Sirens wailed throughout the city as the smoke rolled up over the downtown area. Police cruisers went to the edge of town to escort the neighboring fire trucks through heavy traffic.

All the equipment was so tied up that Pittsford was sent to answer a call from East Center

Street, where an oil burner flooded.

No serious injuries resulted from the fire, although two people were overcome by smoke. Herald sports reporter David Hakins breathed too much smoke while trying for a photograph. He was admitted to Rutland Hospital, where his physician reported his condition as "good."

Assistant Chief Frank H. Seward was treated by a doctor at the scene after he was overcome, but stayed on the job until the fire was out.

None of the guests in the hotel at the time of the fire were in danger, although one couple was in a room adjacent to the burning building. They were taken to the Bardwell Hotel for the night.

William I. Ginsburg, owner of the Berwick, said it was too soon to estimate the amount of damage, but he said the whole section of the building would probably have to be replaced. He said it was partially covered by insurance.

Ginsburg said it was fortunate the fire did not occur Saturday evening, when about 50 rooms in the hotel were occupied.

One of Ginsburg's employees, Frank Brown, and Patrolman James Densmore of 31 Field Ave., stayed at the Berwick Sunday night in case the fire should start up again.



Herald photo — St. John  
A Rutland City fireman (right), atop the Wilson Sports garage at Willow Street, directs a stream of water on a blaze under billowing smoke that broke out Sunday afternoon in a store room at the Berwick Hotel. Two Herald reporters watch the activity from the roof of the Herald building.



City fireman chops roof of Berwick Hotel kitchen, used as a storeroom, while other firemen on roof of Wilson Sports garage pour water

Herald photo — Bennett  
on during height of blaze that drew hundreds of onlookers Sunday afternoon. Fast work prevented fire from spreading.



## Assistance

The Pittsford Fire Department proved again Sunday here that mutual aid among fire departments is highly desirable.

With Rutland firemen busy battling the fire at the rear of the Berwick Hotel, Pittsford firemen, on a standby basis, were summoned to a flooded oil burner fire at 51 E. Center St. Sunday about 5:40 p.m.

Under the leadership of Capt. John W. Barnard Jr. the Pittsford men prevented what might have been a serious fire at the home of Hugh M. Rounds. When they arrived at the home, leaking oil was on fire in the cellar of the home. There was no serious damage, they said, except for the smoke. They returned to the Rutland station at 6:05 p.m. A fire extinguisher and a smoke ejector was used.

## Investigation Fails to Reveal Cause Of Fire at Rear of Hotel on Sunday

By BILL PORTER

An investigation Monday failed to determine who or what started the fire which destroyed a two-story section of the Hotel Berwick Sunday afternoon.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said he and Sgt. Robert Richards of the State Fire Marshal's office examined the ruins and found the blaze definitely began in a rubbish pile under the building, but they discovered nothing to indicate the cause.

Koltonski said the extreme cold temperature almost ruled out the possibility of spontaneous ignition.

A small explosion was heard by several people shortly before

### Chief Believes Building Was Burning 30 Minutes Before Alarm Was Rung.

the flames were seen. At first it was thought to be a hot air explosion. But no one heard any of the sounds which usually accompany such an explosion, such as windows breaking, which led the investigators to doubt the original explanation of the blast.

It is now believed the building must have been burning at least 30 minutes before the Fire Department was notified. When the men arrived, about 3:30 p.m., the fire was potentially extremely dangerous because of the location. The only approach to the burning building was by a network of small alleys, which were too narrow for ladders to be set up.

Koltonski said a large portion of Rutland's business district was in danger, including the main part of the hotel and the buildings on the north side of Center Street.

Twice the flames did break through to the adjoining exterior wall of the hotel, but both times firemen were able to prevent them from spreading.

With the help of Proctor, West Rutland, and Pittsford fire departments about 40 Rutland firemen managed to limit the destruction to the storeroom and kitchen, except for some smoke damage in part of the hotel and in a few buildings separated from the fire by only a narrow passage.

The whole block was covered with thick, black, and pungent smoke, which greatly hindered firemen when they finally got inside the building. Koltonski said the smoke came from a large quantity of grease which was left in the hood over the kitchen range when the hotel was closed. He said he noticed the grease when the hotel was last inspected, about a year ago.

William I. Ginsburg, owner of the Berwick, said, "The fire department did an exceptionally good job. They are very efficient, one of the most outstanding fire departments in the state, and of course the help they received meant a great deal in saving the property along the street."

Guests at the Berwick who were taken to the Bardwell Hotel when the fire started moved back to their old rooms about

noon Monday. At 4 p.m. Mrs. Thomas Eddy, an employee at the Berwick, said "everything is going on as usual." Four new guests had checked into the hotel at that time.

Ginsburg said no estimate as to the extent of damage has been made yet, but the burned section will have to be torn down and completely rebuilt. Work will begin soon on the destroyed section. The Berwick reopened about Nov. 15 after being closed for some time for remodeling. The building had undergone extensive redecoration inside and out.

The 17 people staying in the hotel at the time of the fire were moved out by the staff, with no one ever in serious danger, although one woman who had a broken shoulder had to be helped by 15-year-old David Stickles, a bellhop.

The desk clerk on duty at the time learned of the fire from a guest who said he looked out the window of his second story room and saw a wall of flames a few feet away. The clerk pulled the alarm, which rang in the fire department a few minutes after the first call had come in.

Another Berwick bellhop, Thomas McKirryher, 19, stayed at the hotel throughout the night, checking the burned area for sparks every 15 minutes. About the fifth time he checked, 10:15 p.m., he spotted smoke and a small area burning, reignited by sparks. The fire trucks again rushed to the scene and quickly extinguished the fire.

Sandwiches and coffee were served to the firemen at the Tiki Lounge and brought in by several other restaurants, which Chief Koltonski said was greatly appreciated. He also said the assistance of the neighboring fire departments was invaluable.



Herald photo — Bennett  
Steady stream of water is aimed at blaze from roof of Wilson Sports garage in view from roof of adjacent Herald building.



THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 10, 1964.



Uniformed and call firemen at window of home in flames late Wednesday at 142 Cres-

Herald photo—St. John cent St. Home of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Bruno was saved, though severely damaged by flames.



Patrolman Emmett J. Fleming (right) and a fireman (left) help fireman William Houston of 255 Lincoln Ave. Wednesday after he was

overcome by smoke at the fire at 142 Crescent St. about 11:15 p. m. Houston was taken to the Rutland Hospital. His condition is good.

## Firemen Halt Crescent St. House Blaze

Rutland firemen Wednesday evening, for the second time in less than a week, responded to a serious fire. And again they proved their ability.

The men extinguished a fire about 11 p.m. in a two-story wooden house at 142 Crescent St. recently acquired by Patrick and Mary Bruno. The house was seriously damaged.

Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said the fire apparently began in the cellar and worked its way to the attic. There apparently was no furniture in the house. The Brunos are redecorating.

No one was in the house at the time of the fire.

Fireman William Houston of 255 Lincoln Ave., was overcome by smoke. He was helped down a ladder from the second floor and rushed to the Rutland Hospital.

Koltonski said the oil burner furnace might have been the cause. Homes nearby were never in danger, he said. Thirty-five men battled the fire.

City police blocked off the area.

The fire was "knocked out" in about a half hour. By midnight, firemen were probing walls and ceilings for sparks and hot spots.

About 200 spectators looked on in heavy coats and pajamas. Some were huddled in blankets. Mayor John J. Daley was among the spectators.

Even though they were shivering, many stayed for at least 15 minutes.

They saw firemen vanish into great clouds of smoke and heard the smashing of windows.



12-15-64

## Young Rutlander Accused of Arson

Robert C. Chandler, 24-Year-Old Machinist, Arraigned Before Judge Sullivan, Charged With Setting Fire to Wooden Building on Wales Street.

A 24-year-old Rutland machinist was arraigned late Monday afternoon on charges of second degree arson, with a pro forma plea of not guilty entered for him by Judge Richard F. Sullivan.

Robert C. Chandler was charged with "wilfully and maliciously" setting fire to a wooden frame building at 63 Wales St. shortly before 1 a.m. Monday. The building houses Harry Genovesi's appliance service center and two apartments.

The special session of Municipal Court was held at Rutland County Jail at 6:45 p.m. Judge Sullivan read the charge to Chandler, and informed him of his rights as a defendant with a felony.

Chandler was remanded to County Jail when he couldn't post \$1,000 bail. He is expected to enter a formal plea of not guilty Tuesday morning, when he appears in court with his lawyer, Theodore Corsones.

Chandler was picked up for questioning about 2 p.m. Monday by Sgt. Robert Richardson of the state fire marshal's office, and Rutland Patrolman Eugene Roussil.

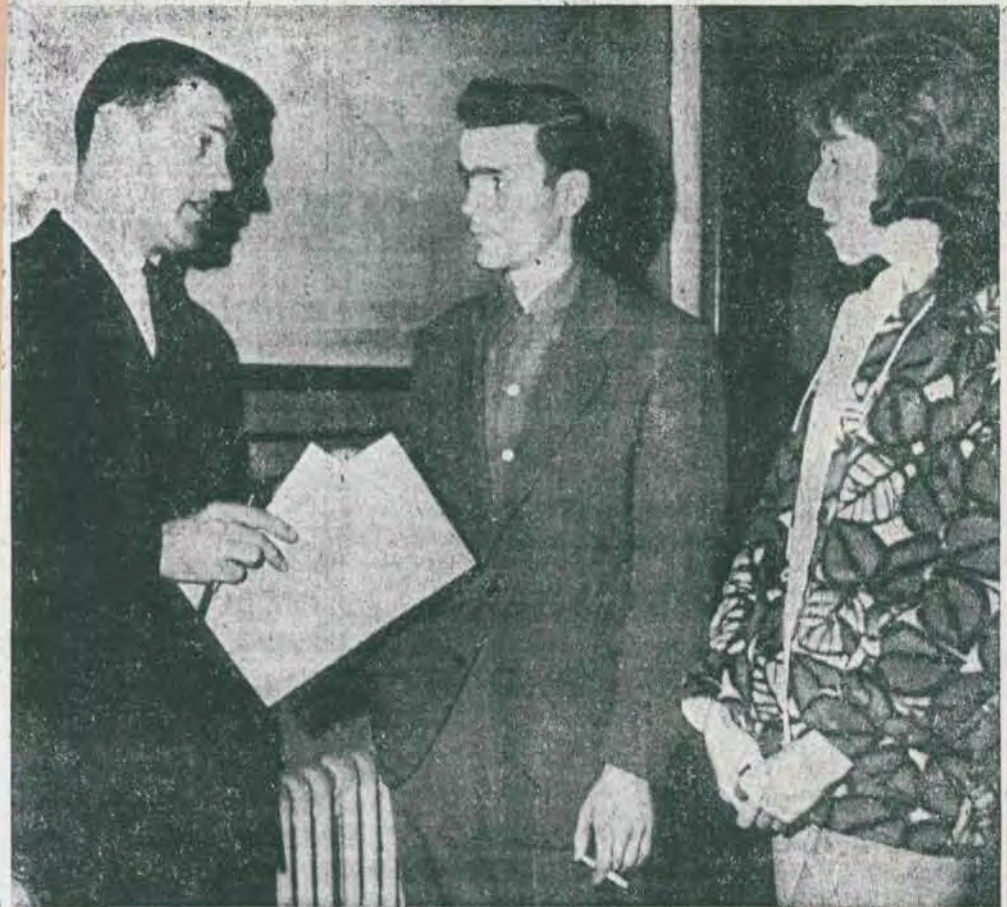
Richardson was called in to investigate a fire which Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said started in a pile of rubbish and rags in the rear of the Wales Street building, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woodbury.

The fire was reported by Patrolman Emmett Fleming, who

said Chandler ran up to him on the street and said there was a fire in the alley beside the building. The structure had one occupant, who was evacuated at the time of the fire. The blaze was extinguished in a very short time by Rutland firemen, with the structure damaged slightly.

The fire was investigated for several hours by Richardson and Roussil before Chandler was taken in for questioning. They were waiting in front of his third-floor apartment at 6 Edson St.

After three hours of interrogation States Atty. Arthur E. Crowley Jr. issued a warrant for Chandler's arrest.



Robert C. Chandler, 24 (center), charged with second degree arson, and his wife, Rosemary, talk with his lawyer, Atty. Theodore G. Corsones, after Chandler pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity in Rutland Municipal Court

Herald photo—Porter Tuesday to setting the fire which damaged a Wales Street building early Monday morning. Chandler was taken to the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury for examination. Chandler was arrested Monday.

12/14/64

## Alert Police And Firemen Avert Blaze

Through the efforts of a quick-acting policeman, city firemen were able to prevent the gutting of a wood frame building on Wales Street early Monday.

Patrolman Emmett J. Fleming spotted a small blaze and turned in the alarm from the call box at Wales and Center Streets, about 1 a.m. Four trucks arrived on the scene and extinguished the blaze in about two minutes.

The fire started in a pile of rubbish and rags on top of an oil tank behind 63 Wales St. The building houses the Appliance Service Center operated by Harry F. Genovesi of 117 Granger St. Two apartments are also in the structure.

Patrolman Fleming stated he kicked in the door and warned the lone occupant of the fire. One of the apartments was vacant.

The firemen used a booster hose to extinguish the blaze and returned to the station at 1:22 a.m.

Chief Alfred H. Koltonski stated that due to the mysterious origin of the blaze that the State Fire Marshal's Office would be notified.

## Not Guilty, Insanity Is Plea Of Man Accused of Arson

A plea of not guilty by reason of insanity was entered Tuesday for a Rutland man charged with second degree arson.

Robert C. Chandler, 24, accused of setting a fire which damaged a Wales Street building early Monday morning, was taken by Sheriff J. Fred Carbine to the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury for observation after the arraignment.

Atty. Theodore G. Corsones, appointed by the court to defend Chandler, entered the plea for his client and asked Judge Richard F. Sullivan to admit him to the hospital for examination.

Chandler was arrested late Monday afternoon and arraigned at 6:45 p.m. that day. He entered a pro forma plea of not guilty at that time. Bail was

set at \$1,000 and the defendant was lodged in Rutland County Jail when he couldn't provide that sum.

At Tuesday's formal arraignment State's Atty. Arthur E. Crowley asked that bail be raised to \$2,500. Judge Sullivan took the motion under advisement, but bail was continued at \$1,000 because Chandler will be confined while at Waterbury anyway.

Chandler was picked up by police after Rutland Patrolman Eugene Roussil and Sgt. Robert Richardson of the state marshal's office had made a thorough investigation of Sunday's fire, which started in a pile of rubbish in an alley beside Genovesi's appliance store.

Richardson was in Rutland only a week ago investigating a fire, also started in a pile of rubbish, which destroyed a two-story section of the Hotel Berwick on Wales Street Dec. 6.

Chandler, a machine operator at the Vermont Marble Co., lives with his wife and three children in a third-floor apartment at 6 Edson St.



society, Inc.

RUTLAND, VERMONT, MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 4, 1965.



With flames lapping only a few feet away, Rutland City firemen and police fight to bring Saturday night fire under control on State Street. The blaze gutted a building owned by P. J. Cantona of Washington, D.C., and claimed the life of the nine-month-old

Herald photo — Fox son of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Hanson who lived in an upstairs apartment. At left is Assistant Chief James J. Rice of the fire department and at right is Patrolman Daniel McCarthy. At right center is Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltouski.



# Two Holiday Fires; Two Deaths

## Rutland Tot Perishes in General Alarm State Street Blaze.

By BENNY ST. JOHN

A general alarm fire at 95 State St. late Saturday night claimed the life of a nine-month-old boy, sent six others to the hospital, wiped out a business, and left one family homeless. State fire officials promptly opened an investigation of the blaze.

Dead is Delbert Hanson Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Hanson who were burned out of their second-floor apartment.

The child was overcome as he slept in his playpen in the Hanson apartment. The smoke was pouring through the floor of the apartment from the Maytag Automatic Laundry where the fire apparently started. The youth was pronounced dead at the scene.

His sister Michele, 1½, was felled by smoke, as was Rutland Patrolman Jack Spafford.

They were rushed to Rutland Hospital. Spafford was released Sunday. Michele was reported to be improving from a serious case of smoke inhalation.

Mrs. Hanson, and another daughter, three-year-old Diana, were treated at the hospital Saturday night and released, as were Miss Florence Wisell and Charles LaFrance.

Miss Wisell, 56, and LaFrance, 76, occupied an apartment, according to officials, next to the Hanson apartment over Zemo's Dugout, a bar. Hanson was visiting relatives at the time of the fire.

Rutland City firemen battled the general alarm blaze for nearly three hours with every piece of equipment at their disposal.

The fire was reported about 9:45 p.m. Harold Coltey, who said he was rooming with the Hansons, stated Sunday night he noticed smoke pouring up through the floor of the apartment just as he was getting ready to go to bed.

Coltey said he grabbed Michele and Diane out of their beds and carried them to the back porch.

He tried to rescue Delbert from the apartment too, but the smoke was too dense, he said. Coltey said he then rushed to a telephone to call the fire department. When he left, he added, the children must have gotten panicky and had run back into the apartment.

Four fire engines, the ladder truck and the service truck arrived at the scene within minutes. Smoke was pouring from

(Continued on Page Two)



Herald photo — Slattery  
A city fireman prepares to enter smoke-filled apartment above automatic laundry at 95 State St. Saturday night during a general alarm fire which claimed one life. The room was damaged by flames that started behind one of the automatic gas-dryers below. Also damaged was an unoccupied store formerly a fish market. Wires melted by flames hang at left.

## Dummerston Man Lost After Home Burns, Is Found in Snow.

## State Street Tot Dies

(Continued from Page One)

the laundromat and a vacant store next to it, formerly occupied by the Fish Pier. Smoke permeated the second floor of the two-story brick structure.

Thomas's Restaurant and Zemo's, which flank the fire-ravaged stores and apartments, were still open for business. Customers stood at the bar apparently unaware of what was going on.

About 34 firemen and five policemen worked hand-in-hand rescuing the tenants, fighting the fire, keeping back a swelling crowd and directing traffic.

Patrolman Russell Randlett reported that when he arrived at the scene Mrs. Hanson then standing on her upstairs back-porch was yelling: "My children are in the house!"

Randlett said Mrs. Hanson led him into the smoke-filled apartment through the back door of the Wisell apartment, out the front door and into the hallway. He found three-year-old Diane at the end of the hall.

Randlett picked the child up and carried her back to the Wisell apartment where Mrs. Hanson was waiting for him.

"When I got back to the front door where Mrs. Hanson was waiting for me, she told me Miss Wisell had inadvertently locked us in the room," Randlett said.

"I broke in the door, and took the child and Mrs. Hanson to the porch where Fireman John Kent took them to the police cruiser."

Randlett said he and two firemen went back into the building.

He led LaFrance and Miss Wisell out of the building and Fireman David Seward went into the smoke-filled Hanson apartment to get the limp body of Michele. She was under her crib. They carried her into Zemo's where mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and oxygen were applied to revive her.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said that he and Patrolman Daniel McCarthy tried to get into the Hanson apartment to rescue Delbert, but their attempt was foiled by dense clouds of smoke.

The child's body was finally rescued from the building by fireman Gerald Moore who got into the apartment by ladder through a front window.

The laundromat was completely engulfed in flames by this time, and great clouds of dark gray smoke were billowing into the sky. Firemen used four booster lines, two two-and-one-half-inch hoses, and axes to fight the fire from the front, back and top of the building.



Herald photo — Slattery  
City firemen (top left) apply a smoke ejector to the windowsill of the room at 95 State St. where Delbert Hanson Jr., nine months, died of smoke inhalation in a Saturday night blaze.



They smashed out the windows, and chopped a hole in the roof of the laundromat to allow the smoke to escape so they could get at the fire.

The crowd of about 200 people retreated to the walks along State Street when electric wires fell sparking to the street and lay flaming in the snow.

The burning wires continued to spark intermittently until a Central Vermont Public Service Corp. crew turned off the electrical power at a nearby transformer.

Chief Koltonski stated Sunday the fire had a pretty good start by the time the alarm was called.

He said the fire broke out through the roof soon after the firemen arrived. Koltonski reported the blaze apparently started behind a gas dryer in the laundromat, which is nearly 30 yards in extent. Every machine in the place was ruined and the interior was burned out. The vacant store next to the laundromat was damaged by the fire, as was the Hanson apartment.

Koltonski and Robert Richardson, a state fire marshal, viewed the ruins Sunday afternoon. Koltonski said the investigation would continue Monday to try and determine what caused the fire.

It was reported that the building is owned by P. J. Cantona of Washington, D. C. Edwin Morgan of Rutland managed the laundromat.

Mrs. Alice Cobb, sister of Cantona, said Sunday all of the Hansons' belongings were destroyed. She said they lost their clothing and furniture. They did

not have any insurance, Mrs. Cobb added. The insurance on the buildings, she said, does not cover the belongings of the tenants.

The Hansons have temporarily moved in with relatives at Strongs Avenue.

Miss Wisell and LaFrance were back in their State Street apartment Sunday night.

As has often happened, a second fire broke out in Rutland Saturday night as firemen battled the general alarm blaze.

Koltonski said that shortly after 11 p.m. two engines were sent from the State Street fire to Campbell Road where Myles Pratico's house was burning. Firemen said a partition caught fire from a fireplace. The fire was doused with a booster hose. Damage was comparatively minor, firemen said.

While firemen were fighting a general alarm blaze at the Hotel Berwick Dec. 6 another fire broke out at the home of Hugh M. Rounds of 51 East Center St. The Pittsford Fire Department, called to help fight the Berwick fire, was sent to douse the East Center Street fire.

In April, 1963, Rutland firemen were called from a general alarm blaze in the basement of the Army-Navy Store to put out a partition fire at the home of Mrs. Eva Crandall of 7 Stratton Road.

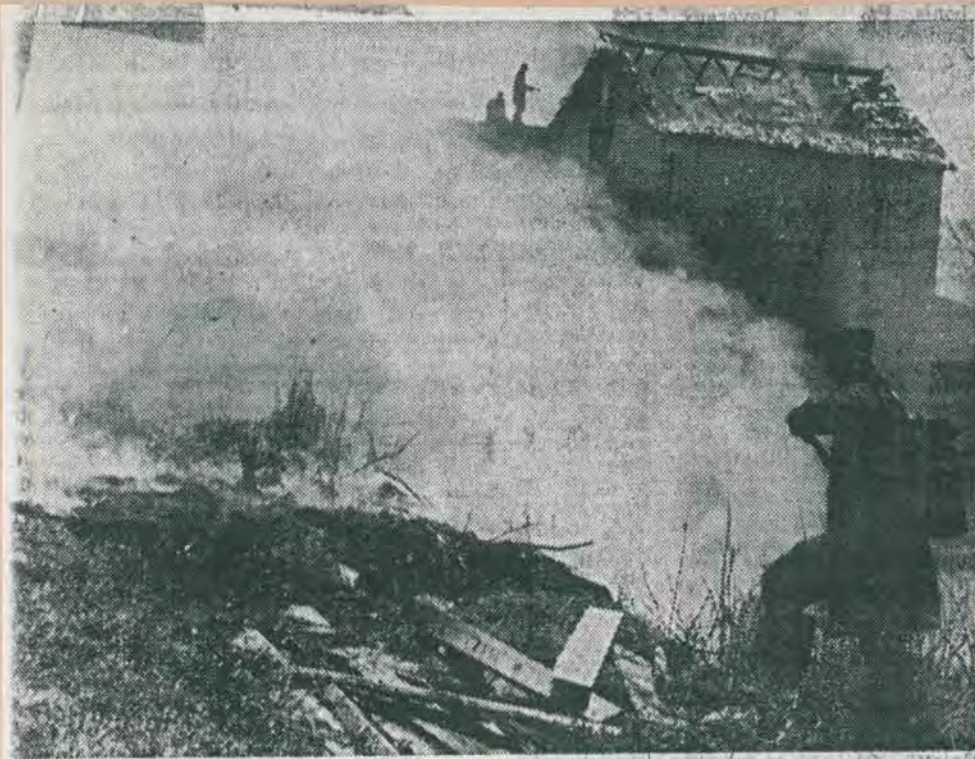
The death of the Hanson baby marked the first time Rutland has had a fatal fire since April 19, 1959, when Demetrio Pratico, 76, died in a fire at his home on Spruce Street.

Private funeral services for Delbert L. Hanson Jr. will be held Monday at the Tedesco Funeral Home.

He was born in Rutland March 16, 1964, son of Delbert L. and Esther (Belden) Hanson.

Survivors include his parents, two sisters, Diana Lynn and Michele Ann; a half-sister, Anna Marie Hanson of San Francisco, Calif.; maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Belden of Strongs Avenue and his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Irene Bressler of San Francisco.

Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery.



Herald photo—Bennett

While city fireman with pack pump attempts stop fire in grass, other firemen atop roof of house on North Main Street near Field Avenue or water on blaze that ate its way up the rear the house and onto the roof shortly after noon

Monday. The fire began as a small grass blaze but the wind whipped it 300 yards to the house and the general alarm was sounded. The house was badly damaged but there were no serious injuries. (Story, other photo, Page 9)



Herald photo—Bennett

Flames and smoke pour from this house or Godnick's Fine Furniture Store just after Monday in a general alarm fire that began a small grass blaze on Lincoln Avenue and

raced 300 yards across a field and licked its way up the rear of the home. There were no serious injuries. City firemen have been plagued with grass fires. (See other photo, Page 1)



# Mere Grass Fire Grows; Becomes General Alarmer

**All Equipment Is Thrown Into Battle as House on Main St. Is Damaged.**

By BRAD DENNY

A grass fire raced across 300 yards of open field just after noon Monday and turned into a general alarm blaze that nearly engulfed a house next to Godnick's Fine Furniture Store on North Main Street. No one was hurt seriously.

The barn and laundry room, both in the rear section of the dwelling owned by the Godnick family, were wrecked, according to Mrs. Madalyn J. Brooks, its occupant.

The fire department reported the fire began as a grass fire at 260 Lincoln Ave. just before noon. Fire Car 5, a pickup truck which carries its own water tank, the department's answer to grass fires, sped to the scene.

Engine 4 was dispatched to aid in the battle at 12:06 and Engine 3 followed at 12:20.

A general alarm was sounded at 12:24 p.m. when the available equipment proved insufficient and flames licked their way to the back of the large frame home.

Engines 3 and 1 answered the general alarm and, when the ladder truck was called at 1:51 p.m., every piece of equipment in the department had visited the scene.

Mrs. Brown said that she left the building before the fire reached it, after rescuing her five cats.

While the firemen poured water on the burning structure, they continued to fight the fires which broke out frequently in the blackened grass between Lincoln Avenue and North Main Street. Meanwhile, police detoured traffic around Field Avenue and out Lincoln.

Mrs. Brown reported her furnishings had suffered heavy smoke damage but not much damage from fire or water.

The Godnicks were unavailable for comment, but their insurance agent, Donald Papineau, reported that the house was fully insured for fire damage.

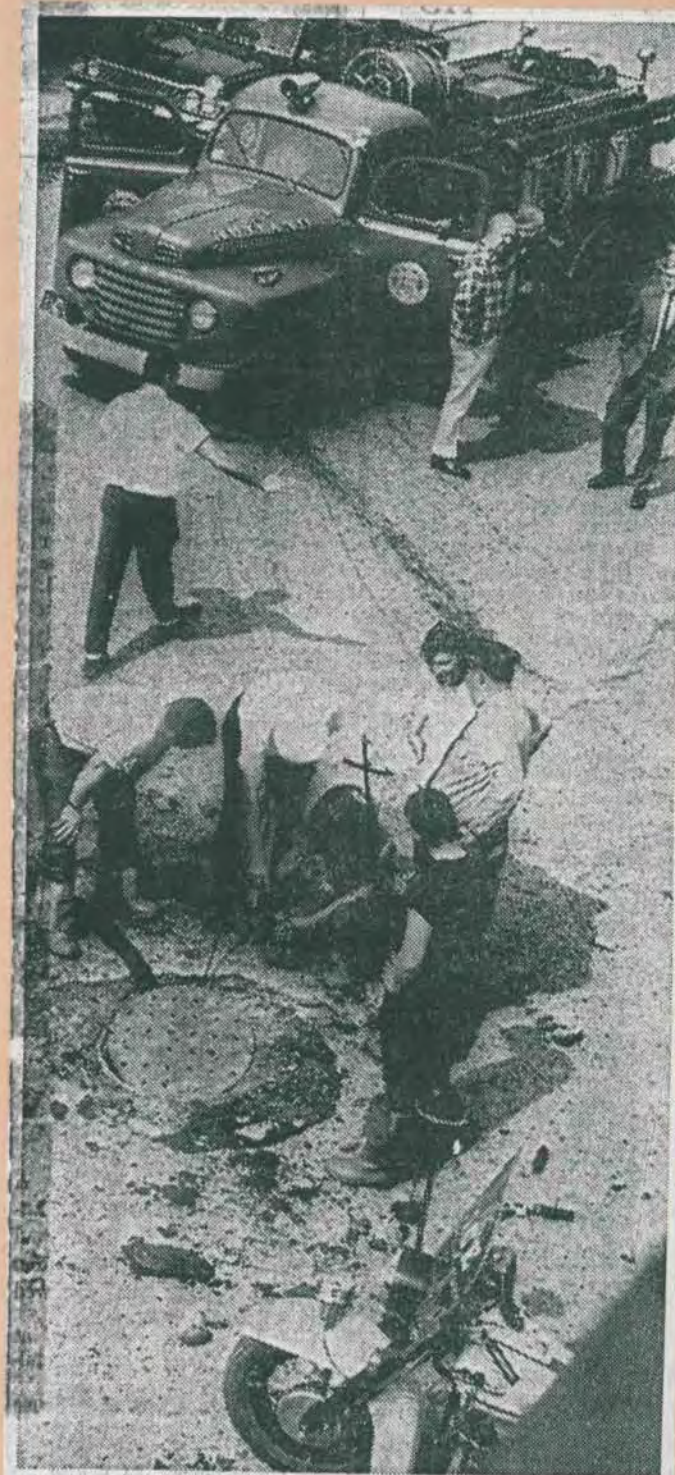
When it was all over, Fire Chief Koltonski decried the "poor judgment" of people who burn rubbish near dry grass area and leave it burning where the wind may get at it.

He said that such burning is only allowed in an incinerator from which the burning material cannot be blown free by the wind. He stated he thinks a number of the recent grass fires have been deliberately set by youngsters and others.

The chief added that he has information concerning the identity of at least some of these people.

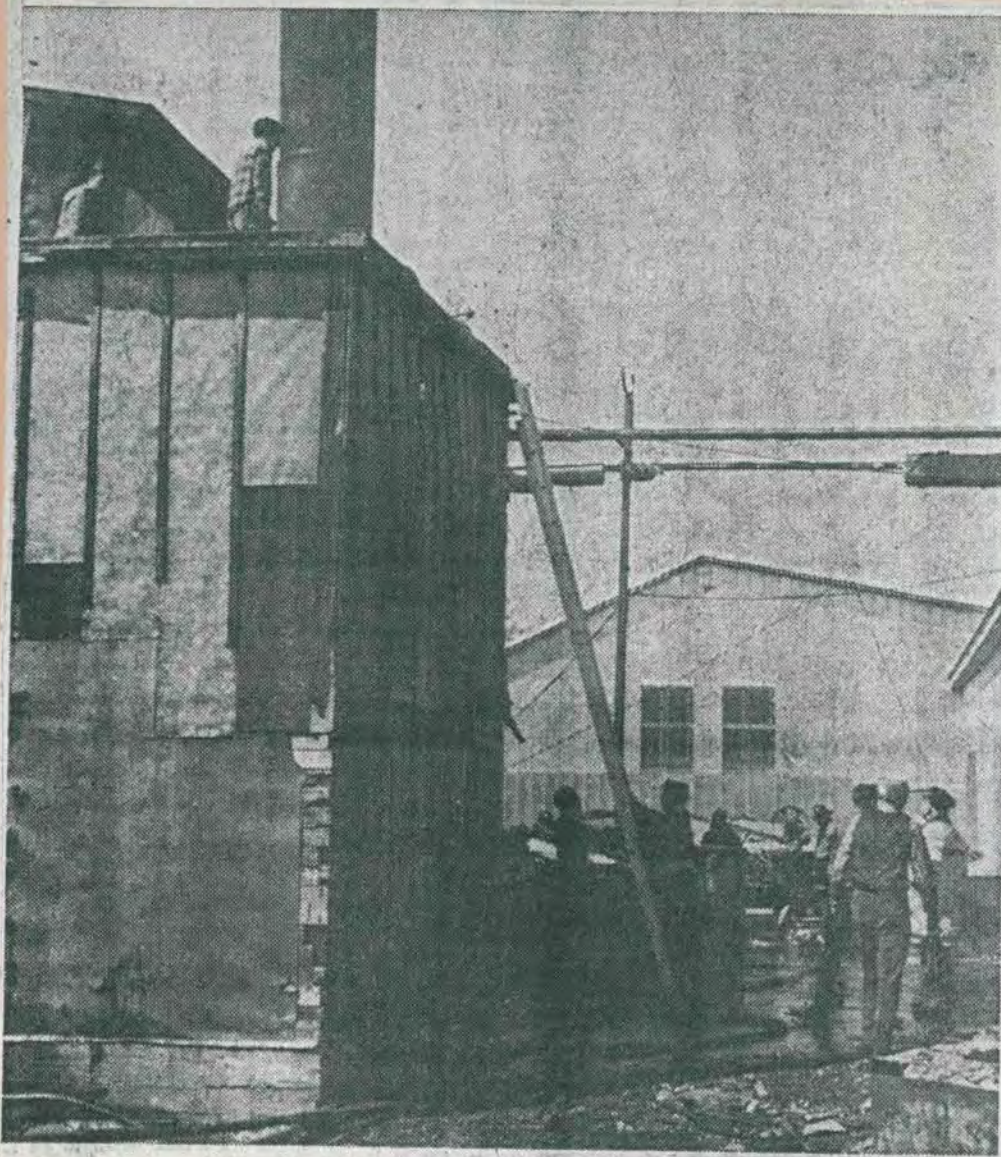
In addition to the general alarm, Koltonski's department was called to extinguish grass fires at 62 Water St. at 11:35 a.m., on Creek Road at 1:45 p.m., at 10 Georgetti Blvd., at

3:45 p.m., on Meadow Street at 3:48 p.m., at 29 N. Main St. at 3:51 p.m., at Allen Street and Stratton Road at 7:29 p.m., on Meadow Street at 7:33 p.m., on Freeman Avenue at 8:15 p.m. and at 78 Granger St. at 8:18 p.m.



Herald photo—Porter Firemen test River Street sewer for explosive material about an hour after a blast hurled the manhole cover through three inches of asphalt and eight feet into the air. The test showed the sewer line still contained explosive fumes, probably from gasoline, according to Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski (pointing). City police blocked off River Street from the bridge to Granger Street after the explosion.





Rutland Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltanski (in white coat) supervises as employees of Rutland Plywood, city and town firemen prepare to

Herald photo — Slattery douse the burning embers of the roof of the Center Rutland plant boiler room after the Saturday afternoon blaze was brought under control.

## Firemen Confine Plywood Plant Blaze To Boiler Room; Chase Grass Fires

By BRAD DENNY

A potentially disastrous fire at the Rutland Plywood Corp. in Center Rutland was extinguished Saturday afternoon after burning only the plant's boiler room roof.

Robert Bigelow, manager of the plywood plant, credited speedy action by the four fire depart-

### Four Departments Fight Flames Saturday in Center Rutland.

ments which answered the alarm with saving the woodworking complex which includes Carris Reels Inc. as well as Rutland Plywood. He said that sparks from the boiler fire may have lodged in the roof and smoldered there until bursting into flames shortly before 1 p.m.

Firemen from Rutland City, Rutland Town, West Rutland and Proctor drenched the threatened buildings to prevent the fire from spreading among the flammable wood products. Employees of Carris Reels and Rutland Plywood fought the blaze until firemen arrived but, Bigelow said, lacked the water supply necessary to do the job.

Traffic was backed up on Route 4 west to the West Proctor Road and east to Temple Crossing while fire fighting equipment was deployed. Rutland City firemen, called at 12:50 p.m., had returned to their quarters by 2:50 p.m.

Bigelow said Sunday afternoon that the roof had been repaired, and debris cleaned up. The boiler, he added, appeared to be undamaged.

The plywood plant fire was the worst of 24 fires attended to by the fire department Saturday and Sunday. Sunday at 2:27 they were called to the three story, wooden home of Charles McGinnis at 90

River St. where they employed an axe and three booster hoses to subdue a fire in 12 minutes.

Grass fires Sunday sent them to 190 Stratton Road at 11:04 a.m., Meadow Street at 11:42 a.m., 127 Park St. at 12:04 p.m., 36 Meadow St. at 1:13 p.m., Avenue A at 1:46 p.m., River Street at 2:42 p.m., Spruce Street at 2:45 p.m., Meadow Street at 7:11 p.m., Killington Avenue at 7:15 p.m., St. Peter's baseball field at 7:50 p.m., Northeast School at 7:56 p.m., Forest Street at 8:03 p.m., Spruce Street at 8:11 p.m. and Orchard Drive at 8:16 p.m.

Grass fires Saturday sent them to Calvary Cemetery at 12:15 p.m., Mansfield Place at 1:25 p.m., Emmett Avenue at 2:05 p.m., the city dump at 2:15 p.m., Cleveland Avenue at 2:40 p.m., Stratton Road at 3 p.m., Mohoney Avenue at 3:20 p.m., Meadow Street at 6:25 p.m., and White Playground at 8:55 p.m.



THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 13, 1965.

# Mouse Is Fire Cause

Officials Say Children Threw Matches at It, Set Home Ablaze.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said Monday a Robbins Street house fire Saturday was started by children who tried to scare a mouse. A family of 10 lost most of its possessions in the blaze which gutted the two-story wood frame dwelling.

Chief Koltonski credited a teenage babysitter with saving the lives of eight small children who were in the house when the fire started.

The fire started at the rear of the house at 130 Robbins St., owned by John and Joseph Foley and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wallace and their eight children, about 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

Michelle Patterson, 13, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Patterson of 185 West St., who was babysitting for the Wallaces, noticed the flames and got the children outside.

She then notified a neighbor who attempted to put out the fire before calling the fire department at 6:40 p.m.

Firemen quickly brought the blaze under control with three booster lines. Chief Koltonski, who was out of town at a firefighters convention, praised his men and the commendable actions of the young babysitter Monday.

Koltonski said Monday that neighborhood children were playing on the back porch of the home when a mouse ran under a couch. "They threw a lighted match under the couch to scare the mouse and the couch started fire," Koltonski said.

By the time firemen arrived at the scene the flames had enveloped the kitchen and living room of the residence. Thirty-five per cent of the house was gutted by the fire, according to Koltonski.

All of the windows of the building were broken by firemen to let out the smoke so they could locate the source of the fire. Smoke, water and fire also damaged the top floor of the building, according to fire officials.

The Wallaces are living with friends until they can find a new dwelling.



House of Mrs. Julia Noble at Gilrain Avenue in Rutland is completely gutted after fire swept it early Wednesday. Mrs. Noble and her six children were left homeless.

## Fire Leaves 7 Homeless

Gilrain Avenue House Is Gutted in Early Morning Blaze.

Fire swept through a house at 10 Gilrain Ave. early Wednesday morning leaving a widow and her six children homeless.

The blaze left the house and belongings of Mrs. Julia Noble in utter ruin. Nothing was saved.

Nobody was in the house when the fire broke out. The

origin of the blaze has not been determined. The state fire marshal was called in to investigate.

Fire broke out in the residence, which is about 100 yards east of Stratton Road, shortly before 5 a.m.

Rutland City firemen were first alerted to the fire at about 5 a.m. by a call from someone at Rutland Hospital.

Firemen said the fire had a good start by the time they arrived. They poured water onto the blaze from seven hoses for about two hours before they doused it.

The interior of the one-and-one-half story wood frame building was completely charred. The fire left gaping holes in the exterior walls, mounds of rubble, and twisted appliances.

Fire Chief Alfred Koltonski reported Wednesday afternoon that the origin of the blaze had yet to be determined. He said he was at the scene with the state fire marshal Wednesday investigating.

Koltonski added he thinks the fire started in the kitchen of the house. The house and furnishings were partially covered by insurance, Mrs. Noble said.

The last time Mrs. Noble was in the house, she said, was about 8:30 Tuesday. She said

she and five of her children (one son is in the military service), had left the house at about that time to visit friends at Grove Street.

Mrs. Noble said the children stayed at the friends' house when she left for work at about 11 p.m. at The Homestead Nursing Home at 56 Pleasant Street. She manages the nursing home.

She said the children will stay with friends for a few days until things get straightened out.

The fire rekindled about 6:15 p.m. Wednesday and one fire truck responded to the alarm. A booster line was used to extinguish the minor blaze, apparently caused by a smoldering mattress, according to city firemen.

## Short Circuit

A short circuit in an electrical cord started a fire in a house at 111 Church St. late Monday night causing considerable damage.

The fire started in the second floor apartment of the two-story wood frame building owned by Earl B. Smith.

Firemen restricted most of the damage to the apartment.

Firemen were called to the scene about 10:30 p.m. by Mrs. Ellen Hollock who occupies the downstairs apartment with her mother. They were preparing to go to bed when they smelled smoke.

Firemen said the fire was started by an electrical cord on the floor under a carpet. The insulation had been worn off and as a result caused a short circuit, firemen reported.

A chair in the apartment was burned and the walls were scorched. Smoke caused the most damage, firemen said. The fire was out at about 11 p.m.





Several young volunteers help a fireman carry a length of hose near woods in which a large forest fire was raging at the time. The fire, which blazed Thursday for almost six hours,

burned several acres of land near the Rutland City Dump. Firemen from several area fire departments helped battle the blaze.

Herald photos—Slayton

## City Dump Sparks Spawn General Alarm Forest Fire

**Blaze Taxes All Firemen, Leaves Black Path Over a Mile Long.**

A general alarm fire ran rampant through the woods near the city dump Thursday afternoon.

The fire was started by sparks from burning refuse at the dump.

It left a black path about one-half mile wide and one and one-quarter miles long.

It was one of the worst forest fires the city has witnessed.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski called it the worst brush fire he had ever seen.

Gusty, unpredictable winds and the extremely dry woods made the fire especially dangerous.

Several homes in the area were

threatened as well as Central Vermont Public Service Corp. power lines.

About 75 Rutland area firemen battled the blaze for nearly six hours. Pack pumps, booster lines and garden hoses were used to douse the blaze.

All but about four Rutland firemen were called to the scene, as well as public works department personnel. Firemen and equipment from Rutland Town, Clarendon and Brandon were on the scene.

The wind-whipped fire kept the firemen hopping through the woods from about 2 to 7 p.m.

According to Rutland firemen the blaze started at about noon. Engine 4 went to the scene to put out the fire and returned to the station about 1:50 p.m. Five minutes later a second call came to the station saying the fire had been rekindled. Engine 4 raced back

to the scene. Just 15 minutes later a call for help was sent out and Engine 2 sped to the scene. A third call for help was sounded minutes later, and then the general alarm was sounded.

The fire was going full blast at about this time. Gray and black smoke was billowing into the sky from the fire-scarred woodland. The area was tinder dry. Gusts of wind whipped the blaze enough to keep the fire running ahead of the firemen. It ate its way from the back of the city dump between Gleason and Stratton Roads southeast nearly to Town Line Road.

Several times the firemen had to refill the pack pumps and water containers on the trucks. Firemen said the 400-gallon and 200-gallon tanks on Engine 4 and the service car were filled about 10 times each.

The Clarendon Fire Department also had a tankard at the scene. Firemen refilled the pack pumps about 20 times before the blaze was brought under control at about 5:30 p.m. Firemen were still working in the area at about 7 p.m.

In the woods east of the dump, firemen carried in pack pumps to fight the blaze, and soon had it under control.

When the fire department's truck transported water ran out, firemen refilled their pack pumps from streams that wander through the woods there.

The fickle wind changed the direction of the fire several times. As one area was put out, new fires started and sent firemen scurrying from Gleason Road to Stratton Road and to the Combination Pond to douse the shifting blaze.

In woods east of Stratton Road, flames shot 30 feet into the air as patches of close-growing evergreens burst into flames fanned by the wind.

**Chief Koltonski Calls It Worst Brush Blaze He Has Ever Seen.**

Pack pumps manned by individual firemen proved insufficient to douse the flames. Large hoses were soon moved up and began pumping water on the flames from a nearby brook.

Many youthful volunteers helped firemen inch the hoses through the dense woods. Most of the woods fires died quickly when the large hose was turned on them.

Hoes, rakes and shovels manned by volunteers also helped to keep the fire under control.

Houses were threatened on Gleason Road and in the Grandview Avenue area, firemen said. They reported there was no damage other than that done to the wooded area, which was made up of brush, pine and some cedar trees.

While this fire was blazing away, Rutland firemen were called out twice to put out grass fires in the city. One was at Meadow Street and the other at 182 State St. They occurred within minutes of each other.



A fireman uses a pack pump to fight part of the large forest fire that swept over several acres of woods near the Rutland City Dump Thursday.



## Firemen Battle General Alarm Blaze on Saturday

Fire Confined to Repair Shop at Lindholm Motors on South Main Street.

Rutland firemen fought a general alarm fire over the weekend in a repair shop at Lindholm Motors Inc.

The fire, which began Saturday about 9:45 a.m., was confined to the repair shop end of a building just north of the main Lindholm Motors Volkswagen showroom at 287 S. Main St. Alex Lindholm, vice president of the firm, said Sunday there was no damage estimate yet.

The repair shop, along with a Volkswagen van bus in the shop were extensively damaged. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski reported at least six autos were taken from the building threatened by the fire. He said the fire apparently started from a welding torch. The front part of the building was saved.

Traffic was tied up along Route 7 in front of the Lindholm buildings for about an hour due to the congestion of fire trucks. Dense smoke made the fire fighting difficult, according to Koltonski. Paints and oil products apparently caused the smoke.

No one was reported injured. "It was a fast burning fire," Koltonski said. Approximately thirty men fought the fire.

About 3 p.m. Saturday firemen stopped a potentially dangerous fire at the rear of the home belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Bartlett of 91 Maple St. Only the rear end was scorched. There was some smoke damage inside.

The fire is under investigation. The Bartletts were not at

home at the time. The fire started outside, firemen surmised.

In other action Saturday firemen responded to grass fires at East and Terrill Streets, 5:15 p.m., 67 Pine St., 7 p.m., West Street, 7:15 p.m., and Mahoney Avenue, 8:30 p.m.

They also answered false alarms at Box 381, Stratton Road and Jackson Avenue, 1:15 a.m.; at 211 N. Main St., 3:20 p.m., and 119 Grove St., 7:35 p.m. Sunday at 12:55 p.m., firemen went to a grass fire at 73 Wood Avenue.

Chief Koltonski again Sunday expressed concern at the number of false alarms recently. He said any person caught turning in false alarms will be prosecuted.

## City House Is Guttled

Home of Albert Davis on Harvard Street Is Badly Damaged.

Fire gutted the home of Albert F. Davis, president of the Rutland School Board, at 11 Harvard St. Sunday night. No one was injured.

Firemen responded to the call about 8 p.m. with all their trucks and two service cars. They promptly ordered a general alarm, calling all off-duty firemen.

Damage to the house was extensive, but its cost has not been determined. The house was insured, Davis reported.

"We were eating dinner in the back yard," Davis said, "when a neighbor ran over and said the garage was on fire."

Cause of the blaze has not been determined.

A large crowd of more than 300 gathered to watch the blaze which blackened the inner rooms and knocked out panes of glass in the yellow house.

Thick smoke billowed into the sky, marking the spot for people from as far away as Rutland Hospital.

Firemen had the fire under control almost immediately, but spent about an hour knocking out clapboards and walls in order to squelch the smoldering embers.



Herald photo — Babcock  
The charred ruins of the Albert Davis house on Harvard Street conceal the black-raincoated firemen as they work to put out the fire. Standing on the back porch, another Rutland fireman pulls out flaming boards. The fire almost destroyed the home, but no injuries were reported.

## Quick Stop In Crescent St. Fire

General Alarm Blaze Confined to Upper Section of House.

A general alarm fire, apparently started by small children playing with matches, burned an attic and storeroom at the residence of T. Gordon Wilson

of 25 Crescent St. about 3 p.m. Saturday.

City firemen used four booster lines and a large line attached to a fire hydrant, to put out the fire and kept the flames from gutting the two-story wooden structure.

Mrs. Wilson called the fire department shortly after 3 p.m. when her five-year-old daughter discovered the blaze in a storeroom on the second floor. The little girl and her seven-year-old brother had been in the storeroom playing with matches shortly before the blaze was discovered, city police reported.

Mrs. Wilson tried unsuccessfully to put out the fire with a garden hose, before calling firemen.

The general alarm, for off-duty men was sounded shortly after three engines, the ladder truck and the service car arrived at the scene.

Large clouds of smoke billowed from the house as firemen wearing protective smoke masks opened the windows to find the source of the fire.

The fire burned through the storeroom partitions into the front and rear attics of the home but did not burn through the roof or floors.

Firemen had the fire under control about 3:45 p.m. and returned to the station about 4:30 p.m. after they used fire axes and cleanup equipment to make sure all the sparks were out. Patrolmen Daniel McCarthy and John Burgess questioned the Wilson children and reported



# Shop Is Ruined In Fire

**'Nasty Blaze' Wrecks Hendee Garage on M'Kinley Avenue.**

By MERLE JACKSON

Autumn peace returned Tuesday to McKinley Avenue after a nasty orange and red inferno destroyed Hendee's Garage Monday evening.

Four autos and a pick-up truck were lost.

Two people were injured slightly.

All equipment of the City Fire Department under the leadership of Chief Alfred H. Koltonski responded to the blaze Monday about 8:30 p.m. Firemen had the "miniature atom bomb fire" under control by 9 p.m. However, they had to remain at the scene until about 11:30 p.m. to completely water down the burning remains.

Chief Koltonski said an employee of the garage was apparently trying to take a gas tank off a vehicle when a cord light dropped. The bulb of the light broke and an explosion followed due to contact with gasoline vapors.

The fire proved to be the second biggest crowd attraction Monday along with the visit of Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and his wife here. Hundreds of spectators watched as black smoke with orange and red flames climbed up to 200 feet into the evening sky.

Several terrifying explosions rocked the building. One explosion blew the hat off one fireman, according to Koltonski.

"A couple of our men were shaken up," the chief said.

The gasoline tanks of the trapped vehicles and a tank of welding gas caused the explosions.

Water from nearby East Creek was poured on the fast-burning fire by the small crew of firemen. Other firemen had to be stationed at the airport, Bordwell Hotel and the Rutland High School due to the Humphrey visit.

However, it was doubtful, regardless of the number of firemen, that the garage blaze could have been stopped.

The Calvin T. Hendee home across the road was saved even though flames lashed at two maple trees in front of the residence. Route 7 in Mill Village and McKinley Avenue became snarled with vehicle traffic and pedestrians.

Viewing the remains Tuesday, Hendee said there was no estimate of damage yet. Two persons were injured. Raymond Quenneville, 27, a garage employe, suffered first and second degree burns of his forehead and both hands.

A customer, not identified Tuesday, reportedly wrenched a shoulder due to the fire. Both men were treated at the Rutland Hospital and were released. Two other autos were towed out and saved at the east end of the garage.



Chief Alfred H. Koltonski (third from right) in lower right part of the picture is silhouetted against the fire which destroyed Hendee's

Herald photo—Jackson  
Garage on McKinley Avenue Monday evening. No estimate of the damage was available Tuesday.

RUTLAND, VERMONT, TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER



Herald photo—Hakins  
Firemen at a Monday morning fire at the former Lincoln Iron Works on West Street check buildings adjoining blaze for further outbreaks.



# Suffocation Overtakes Rutland Man In Early-Morning Fire Here

## West Street Blaze Brings Firemen to Lincoln Works

Sparks from a cutting torch touched off a blaze at the site of demolition work at the former Lincoln Iron Works on West Street Monday morning, calling out three fire engines, a ladder truck, and 25 fire-fighters.

The fire believed to have started just after 10:30 a.m., fought the efforts of firemen for more than an hour before it was finally subdued.

Fire department officials said that they first received a call from the scene at 10:35 a.m. by telephone, arousing the on-duty crew. A second alarm, two minutes later, called in the off-duty force.

A two-and-a-half-inch hose

was laid as firemen played a steady stream of water on the rambunctious blaze, which was limited to a wall on one of the buildings which had been under demolition.

Firemen said workers at the scene first attempted to douse the blaze with extinguishers. They reported that there was several minutes delay before the fire department was summoned as workers at the scene fought to keep the fire from burning out of hand.

Fire officials said that damage had not as yet been assessed, but added that they did not believe there was an extensive loss.

## George Rogers, 53, Dies as Smoke Fills Enclosed Apartment Room.

Suffocation overtook a Rutland man as a fire in an enclosed upstairs room burned itself out early Saturday morning in a Gibson Avenue house. A couple in the same house escaped injury.

The victim of the fire, George James Rogers, 53, was pronounced dead in the kitchen of his 6-room upstairs apartment at 118 Gibson Ave. by Regional Medical Examiner William J. Powers of Rutland.

Fire Department officials said the 4:30 a.m. fire, which originated in a kitchen cupboard, was the result of "careless smoking."

Firemen broke into the tightly enclosed smoke-filled kitchen and found the victim lying on the floor.

Firemen said that the fire burned all the air from the room and choked itself out before it was able to spread to the rest of the house.

The fire official said that exposure to more oxygen could have fanned the blaze around the rest of the house and endangered the lives of the home owners, Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle LaPointe.

## Firemen Summoned to 118 Gibson Ave. Early Saturday Morning.

Mr. and Mrs. LaPointe reported the fire after they smelled smoke seeping from the upstairs kitchen.

Rogers, formerly a carpenter with the defunct railroad was unmarried and lived alone in the apartment.

Dr. Powers said that Rogers was suffocated when the fire burned all the oxygen from the room. Fire officials said the intense heat of the room hastened the death of the victim.

Firemen said that they found burns on the victim's foot but believed they occurred after the victim was dead. One firefighter at the scene said he thought Rogers was burned when a charred shelf fell on his body.

Fire officials said they extinguished the fire with "a very small amount of water."

Also on the scene was State Police Sgt. Robert Richardson of Brandon, representing the state fire marshal. Sgt. Richardson also represented State's Atty. Robert E. West at the scene and authorized removal of the body.

Dr. Powers said that although an autopsy has not been ordered on the victim, a blood sample has been sent to the State Pathologist's Office in Burlington for laboratory analysis.

Ten firemen, including Chief Alfred Koltonski, who was called from his home, were sent to the fire. Three trucks were dispatched to the scene and returned at 5:48 a.m.

Funeral services for George James Rogers will be held Monday at 9 a.m. at St. Peter's Church. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery.

Mr. Rogers was born August 28, 1912 in Canada, son of James and Johanna (Duggan) Rogers.

He had been a resident of Rutland for 45 years, and was employed by the Rutland Railway Corp. for many years as a carpenter, and recently by the Vermont Marble Co.

He was a member of St. Peter's Parish, Rutland Post American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Rutland.

He is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Guy Startari and Mrs. Richard Ross, both of Rutland, and Mrs. Merald Clark of Chittenden, and nieces and nephews.



TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 21, 1965.



Rutland firemen fight Monday's blaze from a ladder truck as they pour water into the second floor. Freezing temperatures hampered their efforts. (See story, picture, page 1)

Herald photos — Slattery



Rescue workers carry Kenneth McDonell from a blazing house at 47 Cleveland Ave. McDonell suffered second and third-degree burns on the upper part of his body. He was taken to Rutland Hospital, where his condition was listed as fair.



## Man Is Badly Burned When Heater Flares

A 30-year-old father rested in fair condition at Rutland Hospital late Monday night, severely burned in an early Monday afternoon blaze that gutted the upper two floors of a Cleveland Avenue apartment house.

Kenneth R. McDonell, the injured man, suffered second and third degree burns in the fire which brought out all equipment in a general alarm.

Hospital officials said McDonell's condition could be further diagnosed after observation through the night.

The medical report said that the injured man's life was still in danger. McDonell was admitted to the intensive care unit at the hospital just after he was rushed from the fire scene.

At 1 p.m. firemen had been called to 31 High St. where an oil heater had burned out of control. Just before 1:30 p.m. as the engines were returning to the station firemen were alerted to the fire at 47 Cleveland Avenue. One truck was sent to the scene. John and Mary McMahon own the house.

Assistant Fire Chief James J. Rice arriving at the scene said he saw flames spurting from second story windows of the three-floor house.

"We stopped and then we saw a man leaning out of the window. He was black from his burns and was yelling that he was going to jump," the assistant chief said.

Rice said he and several other firefighters at the scene told him to wait while they brought a ladder to McDonell's aid.

"You could tell right away it was a bad one so we called over the rest of the trucks and more men. The other men were trying to get the fellow out. We saw him go back into the house for some reason."

Firemen brought a ladder to the window and scrambled up towards the man's smouldering body, then quickly brought him down.

"It's a good thing he was at the window," Rice said. "The fire and heat in the apartment was so bad that if we had had to go in after him we would have never found him alive."

As other trucks arrived at the scene firemen at first believed another man; the tenant in the house's third floor, attic apartment, to be trapped in the smoke and flames.

"It's a good thing nobody was up there, either. He would have been even harder to get at than the fellow on the second floor."

Firemen not detailed to re-

(See Page 5: Fire)



Herald photo—Stever

Mailman stuffs letters marked 47 Cleveland Ave. back into mail bag as he passes the fire and smoke engulfed apartment house in which a Rutland man, Kenneth McDonell, was severely burned in a Monday afternoon blaze.

(Continued from Page One)

moving McDonell went full-force into action against the blaze as it raged through the second and third stories of the wood house.

Others brought the injured man to the home of a neighbor while awaiting the arrival of the ambulance.

The ambulance squad, arriving a few minutes later, rushed McDonell to the hospital and returned for other possible injuries.

Firemen limited flames to the upper two stories then worked for the next two hours to douse and bring the fire under control.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, arriving at the scene with the second wave of firefighters, directed extinguishing operations in the freezing temperatures.

"It was a real nasty fire — lots of smoke," the chief said. "The plaster fell off the ceiling and a lot of the flames went into the attic."

"It was one of the hardest fires we have had to fight in a long time. There was so much smoke and we couldn't get at some of the flames."

Fire officials said the upper two floors were extensively damaged while the ground floor apartment sustained water damage.

"Right now we're just surmising the cause," Assistant Chief Rice reported late Monday night.

"When we first got the call they said it was an oil burner fire," he said.

McDonell, a pressman at The Herald who works in the early morning hours, was sleeping on a couch near the two-cylinder oil heater that warmed his apartment. Fire officials said the injured man's daughter woke him when she saw the flames.

McDonell carried his daughter from the apartment to neighbors who called firemen.

"Then for some reason or other he went back up into the apartment and that's when he got into trouble," Rice said.

"The fire up there was hotter than the devil when he went back up there. We figure the flames must have slapped him in the face. When we brought him down he was in shock."

Rice said the Fire Department's investigation showed that there was possibly a leak in a fuel line in the stove. He said that one of the members of the family had apparently placed a dish under the leak to catch kerosene drops.

"The floor must have been oil-soaked or the dish got filled, because the vapors rose to the flame in the burner which was probably going full-blast because it was so cold outside," Rice said.

Firemen were also called to cover another flooded oil burner on Park Street before 3 p.m. Officials reported no damage in that call and the two trucks sent to the scene rushed back to Cleveland Avenue to help bring the fire under control.

Firemen left the apartment house at 4:45 p.m. but later returned to check what neighbors thought was another fire in the second floor of the house.

A check showed the fire to be only vapors from steaming timbers.

Mrs. Jacqueline Hatch and her children, first-floor tenants, remained in the ground floor of the house Monday night and had already begun to plan for repairs.

McDonell's wife was not home at the time of the fire.

The blaze was the second serious fire within three days in Rutland. Saturday a marble worker was suffocated in a kitchen fire in his Gibson Avenue apartment.

## M'Donell Succumbs

30-Year-Old Father of Two Dies at Hospital of Fire Injuries.

A 30-year-old Cleveland Avenue father died Monday morning at Rutland Hospital after a hopeless six-day battle against second and third degree burns covering nearly 70 per cent of his body, which were suffered in a Tuesday fire here.

Kenneth R. McDonell, the victim, died at 6 a.m. of complications arising from his injuries.

McDonell was the third person to die in Rutland fires this year and the second victim within 10 days.

McDonell fell into a coma Christmas Day and never regained consciousness.

The Rutland American Legion Club and a local discount department store have raised several hundred dollars to aid the family of the victim.

Mr. McDonell was born Oct. 11, 1935, in Benson, son of Raymond and Hazel (Cheney) McDonell.

He had been a resident of Rutland for six years and had been employed by the Rutland Herald as an apprentice pressman for the past four years. He was a member of St. Peter's Parish and a veteran of the Korean War.

He is survived by his wife Dolores; a daughter Marie, 4; a son Kevin, 8; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond McDonell of Brandon; two sisters, Mrs. Beverly Webster and Mrs. Robert Miller, both of Brandon; a brother, Donald McDonell of Shula Vista, Calif., and aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Funeral services will be conducted 9 a.m. Wednesday at St. Peter's Church. Entombment will be in Calvary Cemetery.





A brand new fire-engine-red rescue wagon containing a 110 volt generator, an inhalator, smoke masks, stretchers, wrecking tools, and additional emergency equipment was delivered

Herald photo — Feldman Thursday to the Rutland Fire Department. A joint donation by the Rutland Rotary Club and Civil Defense, the rescue wagon will be used for all local emergencies.



Herald photo—Stevens. Her face contorted in pain, Mrs. Hugo A. Fregosi, 68, is transferred from her home to the waiting ambulance by Patrolman Charles Spoon and ambulance attendants Friday.

## Woman Burned By Trash Fire

Mrs. Hugo A. Fregosi in "Serious Condition" at Rutland Hospital.

A "grave outcome" was predicted Friday for a 68-year-old Rutland woman who suffered third degree burns when flames from a trash incinerator caught on her clothing.

An ambulance rushed Mrs. Hugo A. Fregosi of 119 Maple St. to Rutland Hospital Friday afternoon, where she was treated for burns covering 98 per cent of her body.

Dr. Victor J. Pisanelli described her condition as "very serious."

## Fire Razes Home Here

Allen Street Structure Owned by Keiffer Is Destroyed Wednesday.

An unoccupied house at 16 Allen St. met an earlier death than planned Wednesday night when fire all but took it to the ground.

Completely gutted and charred and with its second story ripped off, the house, owned by Theodore Keiffer Jr., crackled in flames for 20 minutes after sparks from a bonfire burning in the backyard ignited the blaze at 8 p.m.

The house had been vacant for several months and was being demolished by its owner, Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said.

Adjacent chimneys in the two-family dwelling shot up over the first floor. The roof and walls of the second story were ripped off during the blaze. Some of the debris fell through the sides of the structure, but most fell through onto the first floor.

The blaze was under control by about 8:20 p.m., but the seven firemen at the scene continued to wet the brittle boards for an additional 45 minutes.

The house, situated beside railroad tracks near the intersection of South Main and Allen Streets was shrouded in gusts of thick black smoke.

About 75 spectators lined the tracks behind the house or stood in the yard surrounding it. Those who had not walked from neighboring houses parked their cars to walk through police barriers which prevented traffic from entering the street.

Water gushed through two lines of hose and boosters from Engines 1 and 3 until all smoking debris was thoroughly soaked.

Koltonski said a house in the rear, also owned by Keiffer, was razed in a fire about a year ago.

## Mrs. Fregosi, Badly Burned, Dies Tuesday

Mrs. Hugo A. Fregosi, 68, of 119 Maple St., who suffered third degree burns over 98 per cent of her body Friday, died early Tuesday at Rutland Hospital.

Her physician had reported her condition as "worsening" Monday evening.

Mrs. Fregosi was rushed to the hospital after flames from a trash incinerator ignited her clothing. A "grave outcome" was predicted at that time.

The accident happened about 2:15 p.m. Friday in her back yard. After flames engulfed her clothing she ran toward her house screaming for help.

Harry Delorme, 58, of 74 Church St., who was painting the interior of the woman's house, tried to smother the flames and to remove Mrs. Fregosi's coat. He suffered burns of his forearms and was treated at the hospital.

Funeral services for Mrs. Fregosi will be held Thursday morning at St. Peter's Church at an hour to be announced later.

Friends may call at Clifford Funeral Home Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. and Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.



# Five Children Saved From Fire

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## Richard Gilman Saves Tots From West Street Blaze Early Friday.

Ten-month-old twin girls were reported in satisfactory condition at Rutland Hospital late Friday night, recovering from smoke inhalation suffered before they were snatched from a burning West Street apartment Friday morning.

The children, Mary and Angie Stannard, were rescued from the 299 West St., apartment of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Stannard, by Richard Gilman Jr. of 2 Gilman Ave., an employee at a neighboring fuel company.

The other three Stannard children were treated at the hospital for smoke inhalation.

Fire trucks arrived within minutes after the 7:50 a.m. alarm and found the downstairs apartment of the two-story wood-frame house blazing and the lower floor nearly gutted. The second floor apartment, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Canavan and their young child, sustained smoke and water damage.

Gilman, who was just arriving at work, said that he noticed Mrs. Stannard pulling three of the children from the burning apartment.

Witnesses said that Gilman dashed into the house before the arrival of firemen bringing one child from the smoke and flames. He returned to the house a second time but failed to discover the other child.

On a third attempt, he returned with the child in his arms.

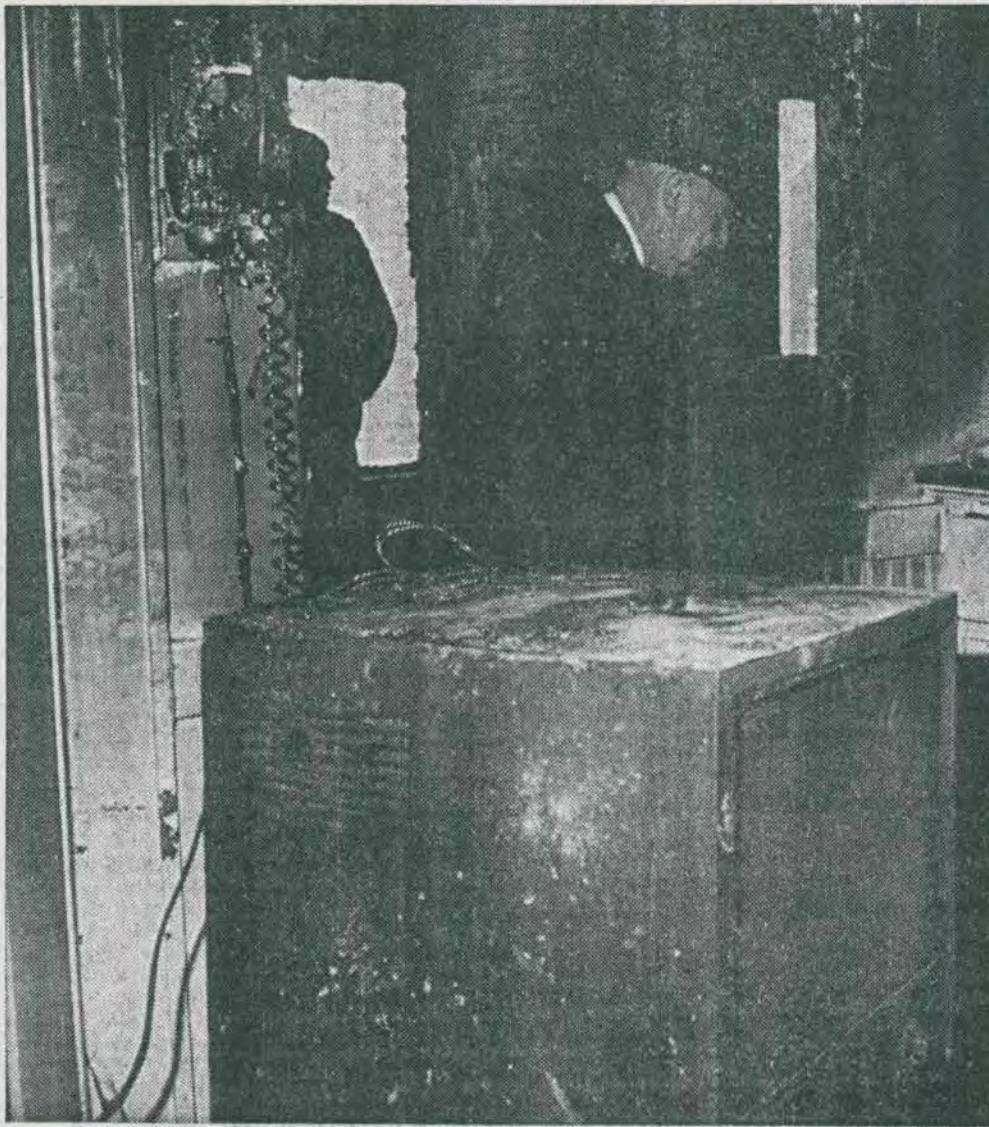
Mayor Harold J. Nichols said Friday that a citation would be awarded to Gilman by the city for saving the children.

"If it wasn't for him, those children could have burned to death," Mayor Nichols said. "I think his efforts should be rewarded. That was certainly a very heroic act," he said.

"I just happened to be the first one there," Gilman said. "I guess anybody else would have done the same thing," he added.

Neighbors said Gilman was forced to rip a door from the hinges to gain access to the flaming apartment. Gilman said he located both children in the front room of the house where the fire was believed to have started. He said both children appeared to be sleeping.

Fire Chief Alfred Koltonski



Fire Chief Alfred Koltonski inspects the remains of oil burner where Friday morning fire

broke out at the West Street home of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Stannard.

Herald photo—Stevens

said Mrs. Canavan, hearing the commotion in the downstairs apartment and then learning of the fire, attempted to telephone the alarm. But, the chief noted, the woman was chased from the apartment with the rest of her family as heavy smoke quickly filled their quarters.

The chief said a preliminary investigation pointed out that the fire began when an oil burner in the downstairs living room exploded.

"It was a flash fire. Things got burning quickly," the chief noted.

He said that his department's inquiry showed that the stove oil tank was leaking and that one of the members of the Stannard family had apparently placed a can behind the burn-

er to catch the leaking fuel.

Chief Koltonski said that fumes from the can possibly ignited, causing the blaze. He said that the origin of the fire was similar to the circumstances blamed for a December blaze in which a Cleveland Avenue man, Kenneth McDonnell, was fatally burned.

When the alarm was first registered, a single truck was sent to the scene.

"Then when the men got there and saw the flames coming out of the window, they radioed back and we signaled the general alarm."

Four trucks and 30 men, including auxiliary firefighters, were on the scene.

"That's a crowded district along there. If the wind was strong and the fire a little more intense, it might have been a disaster," Chief Koltonski said.

## NO WASTED TIME FOR CITY'S NEW FIRE WAGON

Rutland's new rescue wagon was put into use on its first day in town Thursday when a gas leak was discovered at 4 p.m. in a refrigerator at Shangraw's Pharmacy, at 58 Center St. The defective refrigerator was taken from the building and smoke ejectors from the wagon were used by firemen to clear the fumes.



Firemen lead through debris behind Rutland Cleaners & Dyers at 77 Woodstock Ave. Wednesday in an attempt to discover the source of a blaze that charred a rear doorway leading to the furnace room. The blaze erupted at 2:30 p. m. and Engines 1, 2 and 3 answered the call.

Herald photo—Feldman





Robert Davis (left) lies unconscious near the rear door of his gutted Stratton Road home as firemen hurriedly bring on a resuscitator in attempt to save his life. Davis was dragged from

the house while fire fighters (right) battled the blaze. Davis died of burns and smoke inhalation within two hours after he was rushed to Rutland Hospital.

## Stratton Road Blaze Kills Man

### Robert Davis, 71, Dies at Rutland Hospital From Blaze Injuries.

By MARSHA FELDMAN

An ailing, 71-year-old Rutland man died Thursday afternoon after flames and smoke engulfed his small, one-story Stratton Road home.

Robert Davis, suffering for several years with severe arthritis, died at Rutland Hospital less than two hours after firefighters discovered him, badly burned and suffering from smoke inhalation, on the floor of his home at 219 Stratton Road at 2:30 p.m.

He was rushed to the hospital, one block from his burning home. Firefighters said he spoke to them as he was being carried to the ambulance.

He died at about 4:35 p.m., hospital officials said.

The fire, which started in an overstuffed living room chair, spread upwards to the ceiling and attic. It was reported to firefighters by one of Davis' neighbors.

When neighbors at the scene told firemen that the elderly man was probably in the house all of the windows were smashed in an attempt to gain quick entry and find him.

They discovered Davis on the floor between the kitchen and bedroom.

Smoke poured through the broken windows of the charred green house as firefighters dragged the burning black chair onto the front lawn to extinguish the flames. The blaze was controlled almost immediately and confined to the corner in which the chair stood.

Davis, whose wife, Alyce, was at work, was taken to the hospital at about 2:45 p.m.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said a cigarette lighter was found on a table next to the chair.

"A cigarette was probably the cause. But the cause is still under investigation," he said Thursday night. He would not estimate the amount of damage.

Accompanying Koltonski to the blaze was Sgt. Robert Richardson of the state fire marshal's office. Richardson, in on this investigation, was in Rutland to investigate another fire.

Firemen from Engines 1, 2, and 3 battled the blaze.

Davis became the third Rutland resident within three months to die of injuries received in a fire. George Rogers, 65, was fatally injured in a fire Dec. 18 at 118 Gibson Ave., while Kenneth McDonnell, 30, suffered

the same fate during a fire Dec. 20 on 47 Cleveland Ave.

Mr. Davis was born May 7, 1894, in Fair Haven, son of David and Catherine Davis. He had been a resident of Rutland for the past 25 years and was employed by the South End Market as a meat cutter until his retirement six years ago.

He is survived by his widow, Alyce Dimick Davis; a son Raymond L. Davis of Troy, N.Y.; a daughter, Mrs. Iona Bratu of Albany, N.Y.; three stepsons, Edwin Hall and Robert Hall, both of Rutland, and Howard Hall of Windsor; a stepdaughter Mrs. Hazel Barker of Rutland; a brother, Morris Davis of Granville, N.Y.; two sisters, Mrs. Harry Williams of Granville, N.Y., and Mrs. Yvonne MacIntyre of Philadelphia, Pa.; 14 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

### Becomes Third Victim Within Three Months of Fires Here.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Aldous Funeral Home. Entombment will be in Evergreen Cemetery.

Friends may call at the funeral home Friday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.



# Two General-Alarm Fires Fought Friday

## Oil Tank at Patch-Wegner Explodes; Smoke Visible All Over City.

By MARSHA FELDMAN

A flaming explosion in a one-story concrete block oven room at the Patch-Wegner iron foundry Friday afternoon sparked the first of two general alarm fires in the city.

A full compliment of equipment rushed 30 firemen to the scene in time to confine the flames to the concrete structure and a stairway connecting the room to the main building.

Smoke visible throughout the city billowed through the plant and caused the hasty evacuation of some 130 foundry and clerical workers.

In existence as an iron foundry and stone machine manufacturer for 75 years, the company is expected to suspend operations for a few days to clean up the charred and gutted remains of the room.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said that the cause of the blaze would not be verified until a complete investigation was made.

He speculated that an ember from the smoke stack on top of the concrete oven room set off the blaze, which in turn caused the eruption of a 275 gallon oil tank, the source of fuel for the oven.

Koltonski said the front of the tank, which is situated in a pit in the oven room, was ripped apart.

Embers from the smoke stack also set off a small grass fire outside the oven room on Union Street.

Foundry workers, gathered in groups around and on the roof of the building, said the explosion was "startling and caused so much smoke we couldn't see anything inside."

Set in a valley behind the railroad yards, the smoking structure was visible to throngs of spectators along the entire business and residential areas in the center of the city.

Mid-day shoppers lined Merchants Row while others observed from the River Street Bridge. Several children on the bridge enjoyed the added attraction of a freight train rumbling slowly down the tracks adjacent to the foundry.

The general alarm, sounded at 2:22 p.m., brought out the entire fire department, including the off duty shift.

Two hose lines and boosters from Engines 1, 2, 3 were used to douse the flames and control the grass fire.

Blackened and muddled from the flying cinders, the firemen began cleanup operations at about 3:10 p.m.

Koltonski said the fire was the second at the foundry within a year and similar to one which erupted and caused extensive damage during World War II.

A blaze during the World War I burned out the entire building.

Frederick S. Chaffee, chairman of the board of Patch-Wegner, said that the portion of the building facing Franklin Street was constructed in 1891.

Chaffee said the oven in the room where the fire originated is used to bake part of the molds into which iron is poured for castings.



Temporarily homeless after a fire ripped through their downstairs Williams Street apartment Friday afternoon, Mrs. Mary Alice Niles

comforts her husband, Wilfred Niles, who sat stolidly facing away from his burning home, even after firemen quelled the blaze.



Firemen and Patch-Wegner employees poke through the rubble caused by an oil tank ex-

plosion Friday afternoon. Smoke from the blaze was visible throughout the city.

## Infant Girl Rescued by Fireman From Blazing Williams St. House.

By TOM SLAYTON

An off-duty fireman rescued an infant girl from the flaming interior of a Williams Street home Friday in Rutland's second general alarm fire of the day.

A fire of undetermined origin extensively damaged two rooms of the two and one-half story wood frame house at 29 Williams St., and did smoke damage throughout the house.

Fireman Charles Taylor lives at 25 Williams Street, next door to the building where the blaze started. He was enjoying a day off when he smelled smoke about 5 p.m.

Taylor discovered the fire in the building where Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Niles and Mr. and Mrs. George Blossom lived. The elderly Niles was screaming "fire" from the interior of the house when he first saw the blaze, Taylor said.

The fireman ran to a side door, where he helped Niles out of the burning house.

When he was told by Niles that Gloria Brown, a six-month-old infant, was still inside the building, Taylor rushed back into the house's smoke-filled interior and found the child sitting bewildered on the floor of an inner room.

He then snatched the baby up and ran outside with her, where he gave her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

"She was all right then," Taylor said afterwards.

The infant and the elderly couple were the last to leave the building.

City firemen, who had been called out earlier Friday afternoon to put out a foundry blaze arrived at the scene shortly after 5 p.m. with three trucks, a confusing array of firefighting equipment, and about 30 firemen.

Under the direction of Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, the city firefighters quickly hooked up several lines of booster hose and attacked the blaze.

Many other off-duty firemen were called to help fight the blaze, and School Commissioner Patrick Mangan, on his way to church, stopped his car when he saw the fire and assisted firemen in his shirtsleeves until the blaze was controlled.

The Niles apartment, which occupies the lower floor of the wood building, was most severely damaged by the blaze.

Much of their furniture was destroyed, and the elderly couple themselves were forced to spend the night in the Salvation Army home.

A large crowd of onlookers, including many children who had to be shooed from under busy firemen's feet, gathered to watch the blaze in the warm early spring evening.

Chief Koltonski said he and Sgt. Robert Richardson, state fire marshal, would investigate Saturday to find the cause of the fire.

Herald photo—Stevens





Smoke pours from the front porch of house at 25 E. Washington St. as firemen enter second-floor apartment to carry out

family. State fire officials will be called in to check the possibility of arson in the general-alarm blaze.

Herald photo—Parker

## Arson Suspected in Fire Here

### Neighbor Heard Teens, Breaking Glass, Saw Flames Burst Forth.

The State Fire Marshal will be called in Friday to investigate possibilities of arson in a general - alarm fire late Thursday.

The fire, in a two - story apartment house at 25 E. Washington St., ruined two rooms in the downstairs apartment. It was discovered at 11:30 p.m.

A neighbor, Richard J. Costello, told Fire Chief Alfred J. Koltonski that he heard some teenagers outside the house

shortly before the blaze erupted.

Costello said he got out of bed when he heard breaking glass. As he looked out the window, he saw flames burst forth on the porch of the house while a group of teenagers ran toward South Main Street.

Koltonski confirmed that the fire started on the ground floor and said that he would call in the state officials "the first thing in the morning."

The occupants of the ground floor apartment, Mr. and Mrs.

Richard Donah, were in bed when Mrs. Donah smelled smoke and woke her husband.

Upstairs, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Loso and their four boys — aged 9, 4, 2, and 1 — were taken from the house by ladder.

The pet dog of the Donah family was killed by the blaze.

The front two rooms of the house and the porch were extensively damaged by the fire. The upstairs apartment wasn't harmed by the flames, Koltonski said.

The blaze attracted a large

### Late Night Blaze Guts Apartment on East Washington Street.

crowd of spectators to the house, owned by Mrs. Agnes Costello of 54 Morse Place.

Temperatures dipped to 34 degrees as firemen unreeled hoses all the way to the hydrant at the corner of South Main Street and East Washington Street.

One hose coupling loosened in the midst of the fire and sprayed firemen and onlookers alike before it was tightened.

### Paint Ignites, Man Burned Here Friday

A Maple Street man was treated and released at Rutland Hospital Friday afternoon suffering from burns he received in a fire at 343 West St.

Hospital officials said that Norman Gilman, 23, received burns to his left hand and arm, but is in good condition.

Firemen said Gilman was painting a car at the Raymond Nutting used car lot on West Street when the heated paint spilled onto a hot plate and ignited.

Firemen arrived at the scene at 5:17 p.m. and quickly extinguished the blaze with two booster lines.

Gilman was taken to the hospital by fellow employees.

Firemen said the building received extensive smoke damage. The paint job on the car was ruined.

### Lumber Yard Fire's Cause Is Unknown

Rutland Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and Sgt. Robert Richardson, state fire marshal, continued Wednesday with the investigation of a fire which destroyed the Boynton Lumber Co. Tuesday.

But both men said that the exact cause of the fire and the amount of damage done were still uncertain.

Walter E. Boynton, owner of the lumber yard, who collapsed at the scene of the fire, was reported in good condition at Rutland Hospital Wednesday.

The blaze raced through the South Main Street lumber company Tuesday afternoon, destroying lumber and many wood-working machines.

"The cause is still undetermined," Sgt. Richardson said Wednesday. "We know the fire started toward the north end of the building, but the actual cause is still unknown to us."

Koltonski said the investigation would continue.





Herald photo — Slattery  
A Rutland fireman looks toward the roof of a Pearl Street home where he and his fellow firemen battled a general alarm blaze Saturday night.

## City Firemen Dash From Small Blaze to Big One

### General Alarm on Pearl Street Saturday Follows Perkins Road Fire.

By HOWARD COFFIN

Three firemen were overcome by smoke but recovered to stay on the job Saturday night in Rutland, as all hands were needed when a general alarm fire broke out two minutes after firemen had been summoned to another blaze.

At 10:10 p.m. Saturday, two engines were sent to fight a fire in a summer home on Perkins Road. Firemen had just arrived and gotten onto the roof to fight a chimney fire when the alarm was sounded for a fire on Pearl Street.

The Perkins Road fire was out quickly with little damage.

Firemen answering the call at 135 Pearl St. found flames shooting out of downstairs doors and windows of a two-story frame house owned by Robert Platt. The single fire engine sent to Pearl Street was joined by two others from the Perkins

Road fire and the blaze was soon under control.

Three city firemen — Joyce Ferguson, Richard Barron, and Donald Moore — were overcome by smoke, but revived by the fire department's resuscitator on its new rescue vehicle. All three returned to fight the fire.

Smoke and fire damage to four rooms was reported.

The fire started in the kitchen and mushroomed in the attic after flames traveled upward through a partition.

All engines were back at the station by midnight.

State fire investigator Sgt. Robert Richardson has been called to conduct a routine investigation of the Pearl Street fire.

The fire department gave special thanks Sunday to Mrs. Henry Peterson, Mrs. Alden Smith, and Mrs. Fred Lorman, who made and served coffee to the firemen.



Rutland firemen peer into crevice between River Street Bridge and Abel's Tire Corp. Monday night, after stopping blaze amid tires stored below bridge. Alarm was turned in by George Morse, 16, of Howe Street, who was riding past

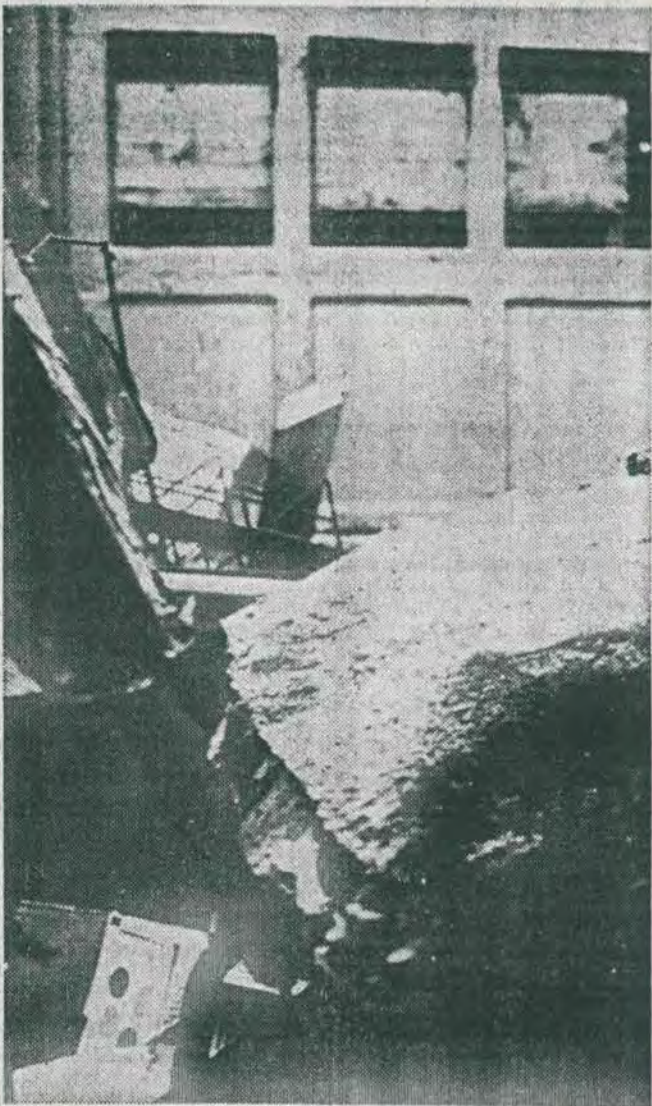
on bicycle about 11:30 p. m. and saw flames as high as top of the Abel's two-story structure. Telephone cable beneath bridge was severed in the heat. Scorch marks of flame against wall are at right.

FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 24, 1966.



Herald photo—Jackson  
Fireman Edward Dalto checks a remaining hot spot on a fire gutted one-story wooden two-car garage here Thursday afternoon on Kingsley Avenue. The owner was identified as William Butler. Firemen said the cause was unknown. Four booster lines were used to fight the blaze, which also destroyed two bicycles. It was discovered about 3:15 p. m.





Herald photo — Fredette

Debris from a fire which struck a storage building at the rear of Montgomery Ward store early Sunday, awaits removal Sunday afternoon. Police are investigating for possible arson.

## Possible Case of Arson Is Checked Out Sunday

**Blaze Hits Montgomery Ward Tire Shop at 5:40 A.M.; \$5,000 Damages.**

Police are investigating a possible case of arson at a tire shop at the rear of the Montgomery-Ward Store on Merchants Row. The blaze began at 5:40 a.m. Sunday, according to city police.

The 20-foot square building, containing 300 batteries and as many rubber tires, erupted in flames and kept 14 firemen busy for an hour.

A second alarm box was touched off at the corner of Center and South Main Streets three minutes after the first.

A passerby noticed a teenager standing near the box prior to the arrival of the fire truck.

A fireman notified police, who

stopped the youth and questioned him. Charges are pending.

Capt. Arthur Olsen of the fire department said Sunday night that the Montgomery Ward fire originated on a shelf containing several batteries.

Three trucks, a ladder truck, and the rescue wagon were dispatched to the scene.

When they reached the scene, firemen found the inside of the building engulfed in flames.

Door openers were used to pry open the locked double doors. The windows were broken out with axes.

Olsen said the flames were quickly extinguished with three boosters. Firemen had a considerable amount of trouble with the intense black smoke given off by the burning tires.

John Ozanne, Montgomery Ward manager, said the building, used for the installation of tires and batteries, contained about \$20,000 worth of goods.

Ozanne estimated the loss at \$5,000.

He said 100 of the 300 batteries were ruined, but had not estimated the tire loss Sunday night.

Ozanne said the battery and tire service section of the store will be closed Monday. The sales and installation will not be affected, according to Ozanne. He said the store will send its business to local service stations throughout the city.

Ozanne said Sunday night that he was very pleased with the quick response of the fire department.

"The loss was sizeable, but it could have been much more," he said.

## Arson!

By PAT SLATTERY

An investigation Monday of two recent fires has strengthened Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski's suspicions that Rutland is harboring an arsonist.

Sgt. Robert Richardson of the state fire marshal's office said Monday that a blaze at the Salvation Army Building on Merchants Row early Sunday was a "set" fire.

Richardson also stated that he believes that the rubbish fire at the Firestone Store on Merchants Row last Friday morning was also set.

Koltonski has suspected that an arsonist has been roaming the streets of Rutland since Dec. 6, 1964 when a fire of undetermined origin destroyed a store room and the kitchen at the Hotel Berwick.

The two recent fires in Rutland, and a fire at Abel's garage early in September strengthened Koltonski's belief.

"I am afraid if we do not catch this individual soon, someone will be killed," Koltonski said.

Richardson said that he has not yet investigated the blaze at Abel's.

Koltonski called in Richardson early Monday after he inspected the area where the fire started on Merchants Row about 1 a. m. Sunday.

The veteran firefighter said that the fire sared near a pile of used tires which were stacked near the rear of the building.

The flames had almost completely enveloped the wooden porch of the three-story brick building when firemen arrived. The fire was quickly put out, but the porch received heavy smoke and fire damage.

"The fires at Firestone and the Salvation Army appear to be of incendiary origin," Richardson said. "An investigation is now being made into the circumstances surrounding the fires," he added.

## Quick Work

Rutland firemen Friday evening contained a fire to an attic at the home of Lawrence W. Loso at 20 Shedd Place.

No one was hurt, according to Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski. He said the fire charred the attic, mainly on the northern end, and destroyed some stored clothing and furniture.

Koltonski reported the cause of the fire was not yet known.

Engines 1, 2, 3, 4 and the rescue wagon responded to the scene about 8 p. m. Floodlights aided the quick fire battle. There was not much water damage according to Chief Koltonski.

One problem his men had, he said, was a "slight" traffic jam to get through on the way to the fire.

"We had it under control in 20 minutes," he said.



## Fast Action Saves House

**Smoke Damage Heavy But No Injuries in Hopkins Street Fire.**

A quick-thinking housewife and fast work by city firemen prevented a fire from destroying a two-and-a-half story wooden house on Hopkins Street about 4:30 p.m. Monday. Damage from smoke and fire was heavy. No one was injured.

The fire broke out in the cellar of the home of Steven J. Molnar of 27 Hopkins St. and was put out before flames could eat their way through the first floor.

According to city firemen, the blaze, apparently caused by faulty wiring, was discovered by Mrs. Shirley Molnar when she opened the cellar door upon returning from shopping.

After calling the firemen, Mrs. Molnar closed the cellar door

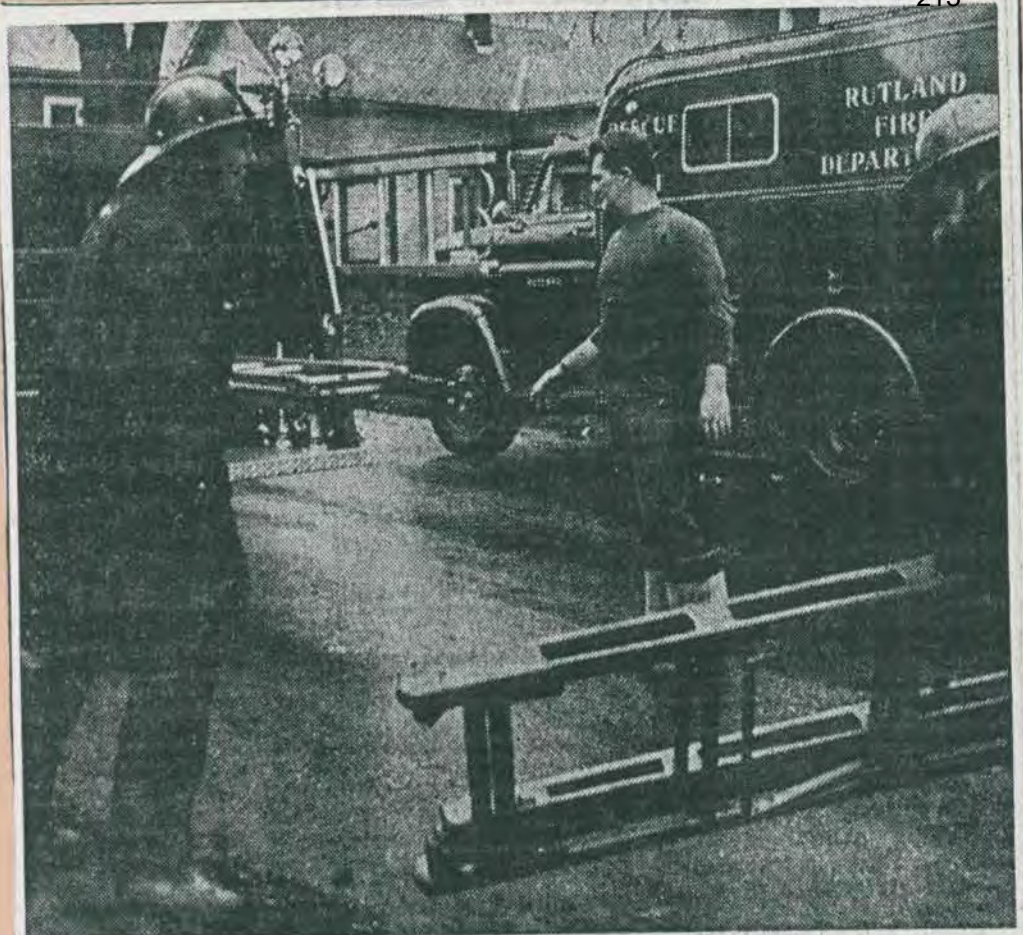
and opened all the windows in the home.

Firemen used three booster lines and were able to confine the fire to the cellar. Using air packs, firemen entered the smoke-filled home to insure that flames had not gone up the wall partitions. Lt. James B. Barron said that Mrs. Molnar's actions had prevented the flames from sweeping out of control through the home.

Fire officials said that the blaze had started under a stairway in the cellar. The cellar rafters were burned and a section of a cellar window was charred on the outside. Smoke damage on the first, second and third floors was heavy.

The second and third floor apartments were occupied by Mrs. Gladys M. Bersaw and Anthony Zullo.

Firemen used smoke ejectors to clear the home. The two engines returned to the station at 5:29 p.m.



Rutland firemen stow their gear after extinguishing an attic fire at 132 Library Ave., the home of William Drake, shortly after 3:30

p. m. Thursday. Officials said the fire started in a pile of old papers in the attic. It was doused quickly.

## Serviceman Spots Fire

**Seaman Michael Barrett Reports Salvation Army Blaze to Firemen.**

A quick thinking serviceman and fast work by city firemen prevented an early Sunday morning fire from getting out of control.

The firemen used two booster hoses to put out a blaze at the rear of the Salvation Army Building at 32-34 Merchants Row about 1:10 a.m. Sunday.

Seaman Michael Barrett of 225 Lincoln Ave., spending a weekend away from his duties as a cook in the U.S. Coast Guard, discovered the blaze and called the firemen.

According to fire officials, the blaze started near a pile of used tires which were stacked near the rear of the building. The flames had almost completely enveloped the wooden porch of the three story brick building when firemen arrived.

Lt. Robert J. Marston, officer in charge of the Salvation Army, said Sunday that he did not have any estimate of damage. He said that the inside of the building was not damaged.

The tires are owned by the Montgomery Ward & Co. Store, Marston said.

The firemen returned to the station at 1:43 a.m.

## Suspect Fire Was Caused By Arsonist

Fire Chief Alfred E. Koltonski said Sunday night that a fire that struck the rear of an apartment house at the corner of West and Evelyn Streets, early Saturday morning, was not started from natural causes.

The blaze, which erupted at 3:20 a.m., started in three trash barrels at the rear of the building.

Firemen arrived to find the entire wall of the wood frame building ablaze.

Eleven firemen worked for 15 minutes to extinguish the fire.

The building which houses about 30 people, sustained about \$300 worth of damage.

Koltonski said it could have turned into another fatal fire.

He also said this is the fifth suspected case of arson in the last eight months.

A tire storage building at the rear of the Montgomery Ward Store on Merchants Row suffered about \$5,000 worth of damage April 9. The blaze was blamed on arson by fire and police officials.

Police have questioned several suspects, but have made no arrests.

The incident is still under investigation by the Fire Marshall's office.



A Rutland fireman administers oxygen to Edmund Joyce, 64, of 123 Library Ave., who was stricken with an undisclosed ailment on

Center Street at 3:15 p. m. Tuesday. Joyce was rushed to Rutland Hospital, where he is under observation, according to city police.





Mrs. Philip Crowley (left) of Brockton, Mass., and Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski support Mrs. Eleanor Mackin, who had just been told that her 15-year-old daughter perished in early-morning fire Friday on Crescent

Street. Mrs. Crowley's husband also died in same fire, which officials believe was caused by cigarettes smoldering in wastebasket. A general alarm was sounded for the fire. (Other photo, Page 13)

## Fatal Blaze Is Traced To Plastic Wastebasket

Man, Teenage Girl Die in Early Morning Fire at Crescent St. House.

By DON FREDETTE

An ashtray emptied in a wastebasket resulted in the death of a 15-year-old Rutland Junior High School student and her 53-year-old uncle early Friday morning here.

City firemen said that a fire which swept through a wood-frame house at 16 Crescent St. originated in a plastic wastebasket in the kitchen.

The victims — Miss Pamela Mackin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Mackin of that address, and Philip Crowley of Brockton, Mass., both died of smoke inhalation, according to Dr. William Powers, regional medical examiner.

Mrs. Anna Mackin, 69, was released Friday afternoon from Rutland Hospital, where she had been examined for injuries she may have suffered in jumping from the second floor of the house during the fire.

Nine other people escaped injury from the general-alarm blaze that kept 35 firemen busy for more than two hours.

These were the people in the one-and-one-half story house when the fire broke out early Friday:

Mr. and Mrs. Mackin; their children, John, 19, Thomas, 17, Pamela, 15, Elaine, 12, and Barry, 10; Mackin's mother, Mrs. Anna Mackin; Crowley and his wife Mary, and Miss Janet Cotter and Miss Jayle Cotter, all of Brockton.

The senior Mrs. Mackin had come with the Crowleys and the Cotters for a visit with the Rutland family. Mackin is a sales representative for the U.S. Rubber Co. in the Rutland area.

Neighbors said they believed the family was awake until about 2:45 a. m. when everybody went to bed.

A neighbor called the fire department at 3:15 a. m. and reported smoke pouring from the Crescent Street house. The unidentified person also told firemen he heard someone scream.

Three trucks were dispatched at the first call, and the first fire crews called back the signal for a general alarm, which brought off-duty firemen and policemen — and swarms of spectators. The fire itself was fairly easy to stop, but it took longer to grope through the thick smoke and heat to search for the bodies.

As near as could be pieced together from the accounts later in the day, Mackin's mother and Elaine Mackin, 12, jumped 12 feet from a second story window onto a concrete sidewalk.

The eight other survivors ran down a winding staircase and through a side door on the east side of the building, which is not far from North Main Street.

The fire was in its earliest stages when the eight made their way down the stairs. When they opened the door to escape, the fire was fed fresh oxygen and mushroomed fiercely, according to Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski.

Pamela Mackin, apparently the last to realize the situation, attempted to follow the others down the same staircase, but was driven back by smoke and flames. Then she seems to have retreated up a set of stairs to a small attic, hoping to find

relief from the intense heat and smoke.

The girl's mother told police that while she was outside, she heard Pamela's screams coming from the attic window.

Firemen and police found the body of the girl on the attic floor next to a window.

Crowley's body was found in a southeast bedroom against a wall. Authorities theorized he had been trying to get to a sunporch on the second floor when he was overcome.

John Mackin Jr. was the first person inside the house to discover the fire. He told firemen he smelled smoke, ran downstairs, and saw a kitchen wall ablaze. He said he tried to get some water from a nearby lavatory, but could not find a container.

Chief Koltonski described the blaze as "a real flash fire." He said the other people in the house were "lucky to be alive."

"It happened so fast that no one had a chance," Koltonski said.

Dr. Powers said Friday night that both victims suffered from inhalation of carbon dioxide. He said 85 per cent of the girl's

(See Page 13: Two Killed)

body was burned severely, but that she didn't die of burns. They were inflicted after she died, Dr. Powers said.

Firemen said the left side of the girl's face was burned beyond recognition. She had large burns on her arm, they said.

Dr. Powers said both victims suffered large blisters, but that it was caused after death by the heat that engulfed the second floor when the fire roomed.

One said the plastic wastebasket, where the fire supposedly originated, was found near the kitchen sink on the west side of the building. It had been reduced to a mushy blob the size of a baseball.

The interior of the house was completely gutted on the first floor, and the woodwork on the second floor was seared with heat.

Firemen put up a ladder to the second floor, but had to don gas masks before entering the house. Even then, they could only stay a few seconds, because of the heat and thick smoke.

Witnesses said Friday night that the short time it took firemen to arrive at the scene and extinguish the blaze was "unbelievable."

The department had the fire itself under control in five minutes, and completely out in 12 minutes. Then through the thick clouds of smoke began the grim search for the victims.

Koltonski, durable veteran of the Fire Department for more than a half century, arrived at the scene two minutes after the first trucks. He lives a block to the west on Crescent Street.

The chief notified State's Atty. Robert E. West, who inspected the house and gave permission for removal of the bodies.

Dr. Powers said autopsies would not be necessary.

Sgt. Joseph Cioffi of the state Fire Marshal's office made a preliminary survey of the house later Friday, and said a full investigation would be conducted.

Chief Koltonski had high praise for the city Police Department, for its assistance during the incident. Patrolmen Emmet Fleming and George Packard were first at the scene, and helped the firemen put up the ladder.

They also went inside in the

search for the bodies, and Fleming had to go back to the fire station for smoke-inhalation treatment after the fire was put out.

The blaze attracted a large crowd of spectators, who mingled with firemen and policemen as the first light of dawn showed over East Mountain.

Most of the survivors refused to go inside and watched with tears and grim expressions as firemen rushed back and forth.

Patrolman Robert Cameron finally led one of the sobbing Mackin children into a house next door after they became an object of curiosity for onlookers.

Many of the spectators were strolling up to the front door to peek inside while firemen were still fighting the blaze.

A newspaper photographer and a television photographer found it difficult to take pictures because of the wandering spectators, who also got in the way of firemen.

## Two Killed in House Fire on Friday





Edward Henry stares in disbelief at the house which he had lived in several hours before. The house in North Clarendon was destroyed by fire Wednesday afternoon. The

Herald photo—Fredette Henry family of seven had lived in the house for five years. Clarendon and Rutland Fire Departments worked on the blaze for more than an hour.

## Fire Leaves 7 Homeless

A flash-fire in North Clarendon Wednesday afternoon gutted the inside of a two-story house and left a family of seven homeless.

The cause of the blaze was not determined.

The house, located on the Creek Road and occupied by the Gil Henry family, burst into flames about 3:30 p.m.

A passer-by called the Clarendon Fire Department, which arrived at the house at 4 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry, their three sons — Edward, Jimmy, and Brian — and Henry's mother and father had occupied the house. Only the grandparents and a blind son, Jimmy, were in the house at the time.

The grandfather found the blind boy and carried him to safety while firemen carried the

grandmother from the house in a chair.

Clarendon firemen were unable to control the blaze and

called for the Rutland Fire Department at 4:10 p.m.

The local department answered the call with one engine and doused the flames with two boosters while the Clarendon department kept the truck's tank full from the nearby river.

The house is owned by Floyd Cutting of Michigan.

Firemen were able to save most of the furniture and other valuable items.

The fire was out one hour and 15 minutes after it was reported.

Cutting was unavailable for comment Wednesday night to estimate the cost of the damage or to verify if the building was insured.

## Blame Blaze For Attack

Eugene Urann, 79, Stricken When Fire in Trash Barrel Spreads.

The death by heart attack of a 82-year-old Fairview Avenue man was blamed on a small grass fire that erupted behind his home Sunday morning.

Eugene Urann died of a heart attack, apparently caused by overexcitement, according to Dr. Gordon Smith of Rutland.

Urann was burning trash in a barrel behind his house at noon, according to firemen. Pieces of the burning papers apparently blew onto the grass and started the blaze.

Firemen arrived at the scene and found not only the burning grass, but the body of Urann lying beside the incinerator.

Fireman Arthur Myhre called the station and requested the rescue wagon. He then applied mouth to mouth resuscitation to the stricken man.

Dr. Smith said Sunday night that Urann probably saw the blaze and, realizing the danger, suffered a stroke. Dr. Smith said the man had suffered from heart trouble.

Urann suffered burns to the left side of his body when the fire swept past the incinerator and inched its way around him, igniting his clothes.

Firemen had little trouble putting out the blaze and returned to the station at 11:43 a.m.

## Rutland Man Suffers Fatal Seizure, Burns

An 82-year-old Rutland man suffered a fatal heart attack while burning trash in his backyard Sunday and then was burned when he fell into a grass fire started from his incinerator.

Dr. Gordon Smith said Eugene Urann suffered the heart seizure before he was burned on the left side of his body.

The grass fire was extinguished by firemen. One firefighter vainly tried to revive the victim by mouth to mouth resuscitation.

Mr. Urann lived on Fairview Avenue with his wife. Dr. Gordon said Mr. Urann had a history of heart trouble.



IONT, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 7, 1967.

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Fireman Richard Battles chops a hole in the front of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney

Butterfield of Mill Village in Rutland Town early Tuesday. Building was totally gutted.

Herald photo — Slattery

## City Policeman Rescues Town Couple From Fire

By PAT SLATTERY

Two elderly Rutland Town residents escaped with minor burns early Tuesday when a fire, caused by a shorted electrical switch, gutted their wood-frame home in Mill Village.

Rescued from their smoke-filled home by Patrolman George Packard of the Rutland Police Department were Mr. and Mrs. Sidney B. Butterfield.

Mrs. Butterfield, 68, suffered burns on the left hand and left leg. Butterfield, 71, suffered

first and second degree burns on the right side of his face, his head, right ear, and right shoulder. Two dogs and four kittens died in the fire.

The couple was treated by their family physician at the home of their son, Benjamin S. Butterfield of 17 Crescent St.

Three calls were received at the Rutland Fire Department about 5 a.m. Tuesday. Three engines were dispatched to the scene. A general alarm was broadcast shortly after the first fireman arrived at the Butterfield house at Lincoln Avenue and North Main Street.

Off-duty firemen and call men awakened by the general alarm quickly pulled additional hoses from the fire trucks and attached the lines to hydrants inside the city on North Main Street and Lincoln Avenue.

City Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, who toured the gutted building Tuesday afternoon with Joseph Cloffi of the state fire marshal's office, said that the fire apparently started in a three-way switch in the kitchen of the house.

Mrs. Butterfield was awakened by the barking of the family dogs. She aroused her husband, who was sleeping in a downstairs bedroom. Butterfield, after futilely attempting to put out the fire with a bucket of water, tried to phone the Rutland Fire Department.

His phone was dead. He ran out of the house and flagged down a Rutland Hospital nurse who was driving by. Robert

Bearor of Chittenden, a Post Office employee, and an unidentified man drove by about the same time.

Patrolman Packard and Bearor pulled Mrs. Butterfield out of the house through a tiny window in the rear of the building. Meanwhile Butterfield had gone back in the front door, thinking his wife was still inside.

Packard and Bearor groped their way through dense smoke, located Butterfield in the cellar, and led him to safety after persuading him his wife was outside.

A total of 34 city firemen responded to the fire. About 3,000 feet of hose was used. Firemen returned to the station about 6:30 a.m. One engine had to return to the house about 7:30 p.m. when sparks rekindled the building.





Rutland firemen got a live run Sunday as the torch was put to the old poor farm, now abandoned. Firemen got a chance to test

their fighting techniques and put out the blaze in three hours. Smoke from the blaze attracted a large crowd to the scene.



Up the ladder go Rutland firemen to fight an upstairs blaze at the apartment of Richard C. Jenney of 28 Lafayette St. at 7:15 p. m. Friday. Extensive smoke, fire, and water damage was caused by the general-alarm blaze, but no injuries were reported. Cause of the fire was undetermined.

## Speedy Work by Firemen Saves Life Of Rutland Man in Burning Apartment

Quick work by the Rutland Fire Department early Saturday morning saved the lives of a Spruce Street man, a puppy, and a kitten.

Firemen who arrived at 137 Spruce St. shortly after 1:30 a.m. to quench a fire in an upstairs apartment rented by Mr. and Mrs. Marshal L. Bailey

found Bailey unconscious on the apartment's kitchen floor.

Authorities said Bailey, 20, had been overcome by smoke. He was listed in satisfactory condition by Rutland Hospital authorities Sunday night.

After discovering Bailey in the burning apartment, firemen took him outside and gave him oxygen with a resuscitator. Bailey was taken by ambulance to the hospital. No official cause was given by fire officials.

According to police and fire department reports on the fire, Mrs. Bailey had gone to work and Bailey and Stewart Devino of Forest Dale were in the apartment at the time the fire started.

Devino was frying eggs in the apartment kitchen when the fire broke out, according to officials. He discovered the fire in the living room.

Devino told authorities that he did not know where Bailey was when the fire started. Devino kicked out a kitchen window on the south side of the apartment house, hung from the window by his hands, kicked in the kitchen window of the downstairs apartment where the building's owner, Mrs. Concetta LaVecchia, lives, and phoned the Fire Department from the downstairs apartment, authorities said.

Devino was treated for hand cuts at Rutland Hospital and released.

After reviving Bailey,

firemen rescued a four-month-old kitten and a small puppy from the upstairs apartment. Bailey had facial burns and was suffering from smoke inhalation, authorities said.

The entire living room of the Bailey apartment was destroyed, and the remainder of the apartment suffered heavy smoke and water damage, police reports said. Mrs. LaVecchia's apartment suffered minor water damage.

Three fire trucks, two police cars and an ambulance responded to the fire alarm. The fire was out by 2:45 a.m., according to Fire Department reports.

Fire officials said that state Fire Marshal Joseph Cioffi would begin an investigation Monday to determine the cause of the blaze.





Firemen tear away shingles and chop at roof beams in an effort to get at the origin of a fire which damaged records and the main

Herald photo—Stearns office building at the General Electric plant. But J. Walter Herlihy, plant manager, said the plant would be in full operation Friday.

## Full-Alarm Blaze at GE; Production Unhindered

### Light Fixture Blamed for Smoky Fire at Aircraft Engine Parts Factory.

A small but smoky general alarm blaze brought seven fire trucks to the General Electric plant on Columbian Avenue at 7:19 p.m. Thursday. But plant Manager J. Walter Herlihy said that production of jet engines parts would not be hampered by the blaze.

At the scene, firemen discovered dense clouds of black smoke pouring from the main office building of the plant, where lighting apparatus was believed to have caught fire.

Firefighting was hampered by the smoke.

The first entry to the building was made through an attic win-

dow on the east side of the building.

Booster lines were laid from the trucks, but the smoke continued to choke both operations and firemen.

Gradually firemen worked their way across the building. The source of the fire was finally discovered in the west wing roof. Working quickly with axes and booster nozzles, firemen tore up the roof and extinguished the small blaze.

There were no office personnel in the building at the time of the fire, according to Herlihy.

Workers streamed from other parts of the plant to join the crowds watching the fire.

According to Herlihy, there was extensive water damage to the office building. Some company records, stored in the attic where the smoke and fire originated were lost.

Herlihy said that the office

workers would be dispersed throughout the plant until damage caused by the fire could be repaired.

The plant was back in operation at 8:25 p.m.

The full complement of 28 firemen and five extra men answered the general alarm.

Firemen theorized that the fire started in a light fixture in the main entry to the offices. Fire Chief Alfred Koltanski was not available Thursday night to state whether the State Fire Marshal's Office would be called to investigate the blaze.

Traffic was badly congested for an hour and a half. Police rerouted cars onto State Street and West Street.

The plant produces blades and vanes used in jet aircraft engines, including those in many planes now flying in combat in Vietnam. Another plant

in Ludlow also produces jet engine parts, while a GE plant in Burlington produces 20-millimeter Vulcan cannons for Air Force fighters.

About 1,400 workers are employed at the Rutland plant, making GE the largest single employer in the city.

## Speedy Work By Firemen Saves House

City firemen were praised Friday for their fast work on a garage fire in Mendon. Their speed resulted in saving a house.

Chief Alfred H. Koltanski said his men answered a call Friday at 3:45 a.m. at the residence of Francis Avery on the Journey's End Road in Mendon. A garage-workshop and a new pick-up truck, however, could not be saved, he said.

The garage was engulfed in flames when the firemen arrived and the fire threatened the rear of Avery's nearby house. The back of the house was only scorched, Koltanski added.

City fireman Gerald Lancour suffered a minor neck burn fighting the blaze. He and two other men, under the direction of Capt. James P. Barron, went to the scene on Engine 1. They returned to the station about 5:15 a.m.

The cause of the fire was still undetermined Friday afternoon, Koltanski reported.

## Fire Destroys Shed Friday On Grove St.

Embers smoldering from a recent grassfire burst into flames Friday afternoon and destroyed a Grove Street shed owned by Frankiewicz Brothers painting contractors.

City firemen brought the fire under control with four booster lines shortly after they received the alarm, at 2:30 p.m.

The fire destroyed a boat trailer, house blinds, and canvas in the shed. The fire spread from the shed, attached to a garage at 235 Grove St., and burned the garage doors. A section of the ceiling in the garage was also charred.

Firemen reported that the fire was probably caused by sparks which had got under the shed from a grass fire Friday morning.

City firemen also extinguished a fire at an apartment occupied by Joseph LaPlaca of 204 S. Main St. about 9 a.m. on Friday. Firemen said that children playing with matches set fire to a couch on the porch.

Mrs. LaPlaca dragged the couch away from the porch and partially put out the blaze with the aid of a neighbor before firemen arrived.

Firemen also put out grass fires on Woodstock Avenue at noon and at 126 Park St. at 12:45 p.m. Firemen answered a false alarm to Giongetti Boulevard at 2:45 p.m. Friday.

## Costly

A local youth, operating a compact car, struck a Rutland fire truck which was returning from a false alarm at 9:20 p.m. Thursday, city police reported.

Police said the vehicle, operated by William P. Young, 19, of Gleason Road, struck the truck, which had stopped at the corner of North Main Street and Burnham Avenue.

The fire truck was called to Nichols Street when a prankster pulled the alarm box about 9:05 p.m.





Flames roar skyward Monday morning as a storage shed at Grossman's Lumber goes

up in flames. Firemen quickly brought the blaze under control. No cause was determined.

## Lumber Yard Fire Under Investigation



Firemen spray the fire which gutted a storage shed at Grossman's Lumber Supply Co. on Baxter Street Monday morning, causing an undetermined amount of damage.

### State Police Summoned to Probe Cause of Morning Blaze on Baxter Street.

Former Fire Marshal Robert Richardson will investigate the causes of a fire which gutted a shed at a Baxter Street lumber dealer Monday morning.

Rutland Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said Richardson, who is now head of the local state police Bureau of Criminal Investigation, would probably begin his investigation Tuesday.

In the meantime, Chief Koltonski and spokesmen for Grossman's Inc., the lumber dealer involved, said the cause of the blaze is still undetermined.

The storage shed caught fire shortly before 9 a.m. Monday and quickly became a major conflagration.

Firemen who responded to the call reported seeing flames and smoke above city buildings as they left the fire station at City Hall.

Chief Koltonski said the three trucks and 28 men who rushed to the fire had it under control within a half-hour after arriving at the scene.

Spokesmen for the lumber supplier had no immediate estimate of the amount of damage done. A storage shed was gutted by the blaze. The main building wasn't burned.

Four lines of hose were used by city firemen to battle the blaze.

"That fire had a pretty good start," Chief Koltonski noted.

All fire trucks had returned to the station by 10:30 a.m., according to police department reports.



## Quick Work by Firemen Stops a Downtown Blaze

Rutland's first general-alarm of the year caused moderate damage to a downtown building Sunday afternoon. But city firemen reacted quickly and restricted the blaze to the one building.

Damaged was a two-and-one-half story wooden structure at 36 Strongs Ave. It houses The Palms Restaurant and Rotella's Barber Shop on the ground floor and has six apartments in the upper stories.

No injuries were reported. But the families were made homeless by the blaze. Damage to the two businesses was limited to water damage.

The cause of the fire was not determined by Sunday evening. City firemen said that it started in the boiler room of the building.

An estimate of the total damage was also not available.

The alarm was turned in at 4:25 p.m. after John Gleason, a tenant, was told by one of his seven children that smoke was coming from the building.

Gleason hustled his family from the building and turned in the alarm to the fire station, a block and a half away. Also leaving the building safely were occupants Raymond Hebert, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stone and family, Mrs. Gloria LaFerrier and family, and Mrs. Hildene Stewart.

The building is owned by Joseph Sabatano, father of Luigi Sabatano, operator of the Palms, who arrived shortly afterwards at the scene with his sons, Joseph and John.

John Sabatano said the restaurant kitchen had water damage. The barber shop also had water damage, according to owner Guido Rotella. Rotella had just remodeled the shop.

Firemen said the upstairs apartments were heavily damaged by smoke and water.

The general alarm sent Rutland's auxiliary firemen hustling to the scene. Smoke was so dense that oxygen tanks had to be used. The ringing of the low supply warning bells on the tanks mixed with the sounds of breaking glass as firemen worked in the upper story.

The sound of the fire whistle also drew a large crowd of spectators, although the weather got chilly as the sun started to set. City police called in a State Police cruiser to help

reroute traffic around the scene.

The building is one of many closely packed tenement-like buildings along the street. Had firemen been slower in responding, the blaze could have spread quickly to the other buildings. But it was confined to the cellar and the top apartment. It apparently burned up a partition.

As usual, no fire lines were erected, and spectators mingled with the firemen as they inched forward for a better view. Police finally shooed them away from the rear of the building, where it was feared that a kerosene storage tank might burn.

But in the front of the building, the scene resembled the midway of a carnival. Entire families strolled up and down the sidewalk as firemen attempted to lay hose and bring equipment to the scene.

### Minor Disturbances Are Checked by Firemen

City firemen issued an all-okay sign Sunday about 8:10 p.m. after receiving a call that an extra amount of smoke was coming out of the chimney at Northwest School.

They completely checked the building and found nothing wrong, Chief Alfred Koltonski said.

Engines 1 and 3 made the call to the school area.

Saturday about 4:10 p.m. firemen extinguished a small fire in a cellar of a Mendon house. They reported some rags and waste materials were burning, but said that the fire was tackled by the owner and a neighbor.

The firemen checked the house, owned by Arthur Larson of Eastridge Acres, and left. They did not determine the cause of the fire. A booster line, clean-up equipment, and a smoke ejector were used. There was considerable smoke in the house, according to Capt. Martin Kelly.

### COUCH FIRE DOUSED HERE SATURDAY NIGHT

City firemen extinguished a couch fire Saturday about 5:50 p.m. at a 50 Summer St. apartment. "Careless smoking was the probably cause," they said. The couch was taken outdoors and a booster line drowned it with water. A smoke ejector was used to clear the smoke from the apartment, according to Capt. Arthur Olson. The occupant was identified as Noah Raymond.



# Gasoline Soaked Rooms Doused Quickly by City Firemen

(Continued from Page 13)

floor when firemen arrived, he added.

The badly burned furniture was tossed out a window by the firemen. The Social Security Administration office on the first floor of the building had minor water and smoke damage.

State Police Detective Robert Dakin seized a can of gasoline at the scene. He and Sgt. Robert Richardson of the State Fire Marshal's office are investigating.

Firemen alerted residents of the building and helped clear the building of smoke and odor. Three rooms were saturated with gasoline, according to Chief Koltonski.

The person committed to the state hospital has been reportedly a resident of the building for about six months. Martin Trombetta of Rutland, a co-owner of the building, said about 36 persons are living there at the present time in 18 apartments. He said he has notified his insurance man.

"There was a lot of damage," he said, but was not able to determine the exact amount.

Firemen responded to the fire scene at 16 Evelyn St. about 3:20 p.m. No one was hurt.



State Police Detective Robert Dakin (right) and another state police investigator, leave the Evelyn Street apartment building

Wednesday afternoon with a can of gasoline and two bags of material after a fire of suspicious origin broke out there.

## Evelyn Street Gasoline Fire Brings Police

By MERLE JACKSON

A 33-year-old Evelyn Street resident was committed to the state mental hospital Wednesday after a fire of suspicious origin broke out in the Evelyn Street Apartment Building.

State's Atty. Robert E. West said the former New York state resident was committed for observation. He is not under arrest or charged with anything.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, state police and the Rutland Police Department cooperated in the investigation, which is continuing.

Chief Koltonski said the fire, which was stopped before serious damage was done, started on the second floor of the building. He said a bedroom and couch were saturated with gasoline and a fire was started.

"It was lucky the gasoline didn't explode," he added.

Chief Koltonski said the contents of two rooms were badly damaged with some fire damage to the rooms, and heavy smoke damage to a third room on the second floor. There was also heavy smoke in the third

(See Page 18: Gasoline)

## Control Box Caused Blaze, Firemen Say

A faulty furnace control box was reported to be the cause of Rutland's first general alarm fire of 1968. The fire broke out at 36 Strong's Ave. Sunday.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski said Monday that the fire started in a control box next to the furnace and spread up a partition to the second floor of the building.

Mrs. Wilfred Gallipo of 14 Madison St., said that the furnace was only five years old. She reported that there was smoke damage to ten rooms upstairs plus the Palms Restaurant which is located on the first floor of the building.

She said that she had no estimate of the damage but added that the entire cellar of the Palms was destroyed and that there were many partitions broken in the upstairs apartments.

Mrs. Gallipo manages the property owned by her father, Joseph Sabatase of 50 Strong's Ave. Sabatase is presently in Florida.

John and Joseph L. Sabatase, owners of the Palms Restaurant, praised the firemen for the outstanding job they did in containing the blaze.

"The people of Rutland don't realize how good these fellows are," the younger Sabatase said.

The building was insured against fire damages.

## Grass Fires Spread Like Spring Buds

Rutland firemen extinguished what could have been a major forest fire on Pine Hill Sunday about 4:30 p.m.

The grass fire near the stone crusher was caught before it ignited the surrounding dry brush and woods.

Over the weekend, firemen rushed to about 30 grass fires.

Saturday the fires were at: River Street Bridge, 10:45 a.m.; Stratton Road, 1:30 p.m.; City Dump, 2 p.m.; Woodstock Avenue, 2:15 p.m.; Mussey Street, 2:34 p.m.; North Grove Street, 3:05 p.m.; Jackson Avenue, 6:05 p.m.; St. Peter's Field, 7:23 p.m.; West Street, 7:40 p.m.; Dorr Drive, 7:50 p.m.; and Meadow Street Field, 8:41 p.m. and 11:58 p.m.

Grass fires extinguished Sunday were at: Allen Street, 10:30 a.m.; Gleason Road, 10:45 a.m. and 11:10 a.m.; Park Street, 11:12 a.m. and 11:20 a.m.; Campbell Road, 12:13 a.m.; Woodstock Avenue, 2:11 p.m.; West Street, 3:22 p.m.; Bellevue Avenue, 4 p.m.; Exeter Road, 4:20 p.m.; Meadow Lake Road in Mendon, 4:35 p.m.; and Cleveland Avenue, 6:45 p.m.

Fire department officials in Castleton, Pittsford, West Rutland, Poultney, and Fair Haven all reported grass fires. Most of them were minor ones.



## Police Seeking Arsonist With Cut Arm After Blaze Damages Railway Offices

By MIKE ROSENBERG

Area police are searching for a person with a bandaged hand in connection with a fire late Friday night at the Vermont Railway Co. office on Park Street.

Authorities have determined arson as the cause of the blaze.

Fire officials said the person who set the fire entered the one-story building by throwing stones through a window in the door and reaching in to open the door.

The person apparently cut himself in the process. Blood was discovered outside the building Friday night and across the street near the Roving Lumber Co. Saturday.

A passerby reported the fire to the fire station, and two trucks responded about 11 p.m. Friday.

The blaze was confined to the office section of the building. Many company papers were consumed, a chair was burned, and the walls and ceiling were scorched in one office. The other office sustained soot and smoke damage.

Fire department officials said the person apparently started the fire by spraying starter fluid on the walls, ceiling, and papers and igniting it.

Police notified Rutland Hospital shortly after midnight Friday to watch for a person asking treatment for a badly cut hand. No one asked for such treatment.

City police questioned several



Herald photo — Rosenberg

This charred furniture was removed from the offices of the Vermont Railway on Park Street, where an arsonist struck late Friday night. Police believed he cut himself badly while entering the building. They are seeking some one with a bandaged arm or hand.

suspects Saturday. People who have had feuds with the railroad were questioned.

Donald Taylor, owner of the Roving Lumber Co., discovered blood on a pile of boards on his premises about 11:30 a.m. Saturday. He also found a book of matches near the blood. The

words Union Pacific Railroad were printed on the matchbook, and some of the matches were wrapped in cellophane, police said.

Sgt. Robert Richardson of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation is investigating the incident.

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## Grass Fire Time Brings A Warning

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, backed up by City Grand Juror Robert E. West, issued a warning Tuesday that any youth caught setting grass fires will be prosecuted.

Each spring, the city fire department has to respond to hundreds of such fires, many deliberately set by youngsters.

At the same time, Koltonski urged city residents to be careful burning items in their incinerator, especially on windy days. He also said persons must obtain permission from his department before they attempt to burn their lawns or fields.

When people burn their lawns or field areas, they must watch the fire and keep it under control, Koltonski added. It must be done between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

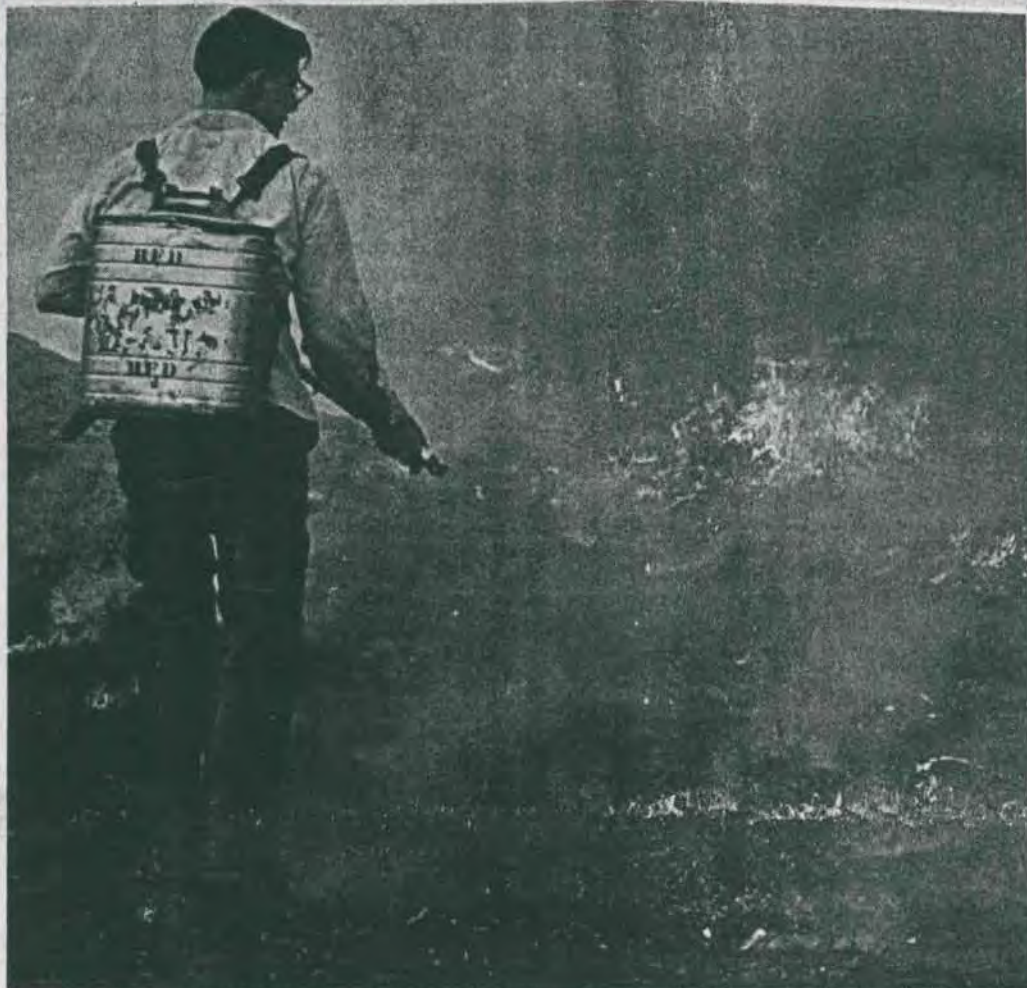
The veteran fire chief said he believes that two boys deliberately set the grass fire at Pine Hill Sunday afternoon. Over the weekend the firemen responded to about 30 grass fires.

Koltonski said grass fires tie up his equipment and could seriously hurt his department if a really bad fire happened at the same time.

Koltonski also cited the wear and tear on his equipment. He also recognized that grass fire can turn into serious fires.

West said a person convicted of setting grass fires can be jailed from 30 to 60 days and fined from \$10 to \$100. A youngster under age 16, will be brought to Juvenile Court and punished, he said.

West agreed deliberate setting of grass fires is a serious matter.



Fireman Joe Quinn uses a pack pump on a grass fire at Pine Hill Sunday afternoon. The warm and dry weather this weekend

Herald photo — Marro set off the grass fire itch in many a Rutland youngster. Firemen were busy all weekend. They responded to more than 30 such fires.





Firemen tackle a fire which damaged overhead doors and eaves Tuesday about 12:25 p.m. at the Baker Distributing Co. on Post Street. Capt. James Barron of the fire

Herald photo — Crowther department, said the fire was "really ripping" when he arrived. A switching crew of the Vermont Railroad reportedly discovered the fire. Extensive damage was prevented.

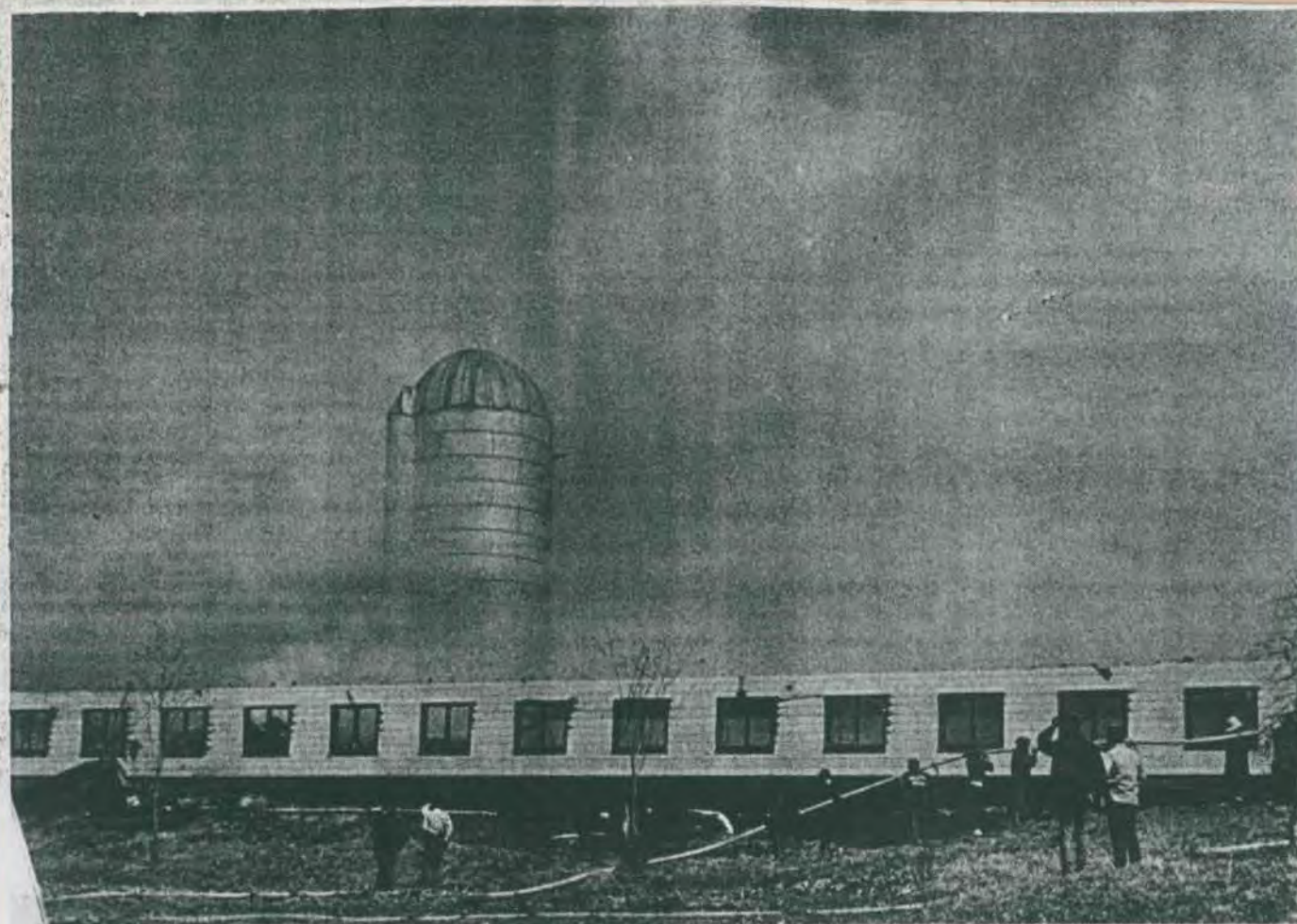
THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 4, 1968.



An apparition rising from a puff of smoke? No. It's a Rutland fireman atop a smoldering pile of rubble Wednesday after-

Herald photo — Slayton noon. A fire of undetermined origin broke out in a rubbish heap beneath River Street Bridge at about 4 p.m.





Smoke rises high over the barn of Orin Thomas of Rutland Town Tuesday as firemen battle to keep the flames from

spreading to other farm buildings. The flame caused \$90,000 in damages. Smoke was visible from the middle of Rutland.

## Big Fire Destroys Thomas Barn

By PAT SLATTERY

An electrical short circuit was the probable cause of a \$90,000 fire which swept a cattle barn at Orin Thomas & Sons Inc. farm on Pittsford Road about noon Tuesday. One prize Holstein cow was killed in the blaze. A Rutland fireman, one of more than 50 firemen battling the blaze, suffered a minor injury. Quick work by two of the farm's owners saved 89 other Holstein cows from fiery death in the barn. A 35- to 40-mile-per-hour wind aided the flames in gutting the building.

Despite the hosework of firemen from Rutland, Rutland Town, and Pittsford, the barn burned to the ground. Two empty silos were not burned. But a third silo containing silage was destroyed.

Rutland Fireman Ira Earle, 28, of 49 Baxter St., suffered a puncture wound in the right foot when he stepped on a nail. Earle was treated at Rutland Hospital.

The southeast wind kept the fire away from nearby barns and the Thomas farmhouse. The fire was finally brought under control about 2 p.m. Firemen were at the scene until after 5 p.m. extinguishing burning embers and hay.

The owners of the farm said that the blaze destroyed thousands of dollars worth of dairy equipment, a bulk milk tank, and other farm equipment. Total damage was estimated at \$90,000. Part of the damage will be covered by insurance.

But they said that the fire will not hinder the farm's milk and dairy products output.

The Pittsford Fire Department had to leave the farm about 2 p.m. to fight a fire at a dump owned by Lorenzo Phelps on Sagamon Road in East Pittsford.

The dump fire spread to nearby meadows and woods. Late Tuesday, firemen from Pittsford, Proctor, Chittenden, and Brandon brought the blaze under control.

The fire at the Thomas Farm was discovered shortly after noon Tuesday by one of the firm's owners, William Thomas. He said that flames were bursting through the roof in the middle of the building.

"I yelled to my brother Merritt and told him to call the Rutland Fire Department," Thomas said. He said that he and his brother and several farmhands then rushed into the burning building and started to free the 90 prize dairy cows hitched to cattle stanchions.

All except one of the cows was led to safety before flames engulfed the nine-year-old barn. William Thomas said that the prize cow had gotten itself tangled in its stanchion in its efforts to escape the fire. The cow was valued at \$500.

One other cow suffered minor burns on its face. The injured cow was treated by a veterinarian.

Thomas said that he believed that the fire may have started as a result of a short circuit. The main fuseboxes and wiring for the barn were located near the spot where the fire was first discovered.



Firemen edge in on flames which destroyed a barn at the Orin Thomas farm in Rutland Town Tuesday. Three departments battled the blaze. Only one of 90 cows in the barn was killed by the fire, which raged for about two hours.

A fire alarm in the barn failed to function, Thomas said.

Three fire engines from Rutland were joined at the fire scene by a pumper truck owned by the Rutland Town Fire Department. Twelve city firemen and one truck remained at the scene most of the afternoon.

A general alarm was broadcast in Rutland about 12:30 p.m. to bring in off-duty firemen. These men manned the Rutland station while the regular duty men fought the farm fire.

Forty volunteers from Rutland Town's newly formed volunteer department and several firemen from Pittsford were also at the fire.

Most of the roof of the barn had already caved in by the time firemen hooked their lines up to the two engines which were pumping water from the farm's water supply pond.

The firemen poured water on a milk house at the south end of the barn, but were unable to save the structure. Hay which was stored in the barn hampered the firemen in putting out the blaze.

Large crowds of bystanders flocked to the farm to witness the fire. Smoke from the blaze was visible from Rutland.

The Vermont Highway Department manned roadblocks on Route 7 north and south of the farm. Traffic was re-routed along side roads until 5 p.m. Tuesday.

It was the first taste of fire for the town volunteers. The

department is expected to start operation in July.

But for Rutland Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, it was another milestone in his long firefighting years. It was the first day of Koltonski's 67th year as a fireman.

Koltonski joined the local department on April 16, 1912.

Thomas said that the barn housed almost half of the farm's 200 head herd of cows.

He said that the barn will be rebuilt. Thomas said that the farm will be able to continue its dairy operation because all of the pasteurizing, homogenizing, and bottling equipment is stored in another barn.

The cows will be housed in another barn on the farm or at the farm of a neighbor, Thomas said.

Thomas praised the work of the town and city firemen.

"I knew they couldn't save the barn, but at least they kept the blaze from spreading to the other buildings," he said.

The last major fire at the Thomas farm was in 1956, when a blaze destroyed a small barn.

No cattle were lost in that blaze, but thousands of dollars worth of farm machinery were destroyed.

The farm has been in the Thomas family for more than 100 years. The farm started its dairy operation in 1921. It became a corporation in 1948.

It is operated by the four sons of Orin A. Thomas.



# Father Rescues Two Children From Flames

By JACK CROWTHER

"We have no home, no furniture, and no clothes; but we have a roofing company." That was the game comment of Mrs. Jeannette Zullo, 24, of 36 Baxter St. Tuesday after she, her husband, and two children narrowly escaped injury in an early morning fire which burned out their first floor apartment.

Peter Zullo, 24, his wife, and their children, Lisa, 4, and Peter Jr., 5, escaped from the 1 a.m. fire after the family's 12-week-old English Setter awakened Mrs. Zullo when flames leapt up the wall of the family television room.

Zullo was awakened by his wife's screams. He sent his wife out the back door of the apartment and then made two trips through the flame licked door of the children's room to rescue his children.

The upstairs family at the wood frame house, Mr. and Mrs. Robert LaFlamme and their children, Peter, Denise and Bobby, aged eight to 10, escaped uninjured after the Zullos shouted warnings. Mrs. Zullo's brother, William Valach Jr., 15, who lives next door, led two of the LaFlamme children from the top floor.

The Zullo's five-room apartment was ruined. But damage to the upstairs apartment was limited to smoke damage.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltanski said he thought faulty wiring near a television set connection may have caused the blaze. He noted that acoustical tile in the ceiling of the home may have retarded the flame's progress.

Zullo had to brave not only the flames but exploding cartridges from a pistol belt to save his children. The belt of shells was hanging near the spot where the blaze started.

The puppy who warned the family suffocated in the blaze, Zullo said. Other casualties included two house cats, one of which had to be taken to a veterinarian. Zullo's hair was singed, but he was otherwise unhurt.

Zullo, owner of the Caledonia Roofing Co., said the apartment had been newly furnished and was uninsured.

Neighbors donated clothing to the family. The Zullos will stay temporarily with Mrs. Zullo's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Valach, who live next door at 38 Baxter St.

Mrs. Zullo praised the speed with which firemen and police responded to the alarm. "They were right here," she said. Firemen pumped for approximately an hour, using booster lines and larger hoses. No general alarm was sounded, however.

Chief Koltanski, in turn, praised Zullo for rescuing the children from their room.



Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Zullo and their two children, Lisa, 4 (at left), and Peter Jr., 5, stands on the front porch of what once was their Baxter Street home. Fire burned out the family's first floor apartment early Monday morning. A 12-

month-old English Setter puppy alerted the family to the fire. Zullo made two trips through a flaming doorway amid exploding cartridges to save his children. The Robert LaFlamme family escaped unhurt from the upstairs apartment.

## 'Unofficial Boarder' May Have Set Apartment Fire

By JACK CROWTHER

An unofficial boarder may have been the cause of an attic apartment fire at 47 Grant Ave. which resulted in a general alarm, at 7 p.m. Friday. Firemen responded to a report of smoke pouring from the upper windows of the two and a half story wooden house. In a small room in the northwest corner of the "uninhabited" attic, they found a burning mattress, armchair, and bureau. Firemen said the blaze seemed concentrated on the mattress.

The owner of the building, Harold Hubbard of Killington Avenue, said the upper apartments had not been occupied for five or six weeks. He theorized that someone had used the room where the blaze occurred by entering through a rear fire escape.

Hubbard said he has been cleaning out the attic rooms and left the door to the fire escape open because there was nothing anyone would want to steal from the rooms.

The burned furnishings were thrown from the window of the room where the fire originated. There was also damage to the room's ceiling, but it did not appear to be excessive.

The department sent all its apparatus, including the rescue wagon and power plant. Firemen originally feared someone might be trapped inside the building.

The Rev. Leonidas Laroche, fire department chaplain, was also at the scene.

At one point a hydrant with a mind of its own went off, spewing water across Grant Avenue, but it was soon controlled.

Earlier Friday, firemen broke windows and used a portable oxygen supply to get a drum of burning benzen at the Keilty Engineering and Chemical Corp. at 440 West St. The chemical apparently caught fire from a short in an egg beater which a plant worker, Clayton Burney of Rutland, was using to stir the solution.

Burney suffered a burn to the right arm but remained at the scene. He did not appear seriously hurt. He said he was kneeling beside the 50-gallon drum containing the benzene when it caught.

Harold Brozyna, president of the firm, praised the speed with which the fire department arrived. "Unbelievable," said Brozyna.



Herald photo—Crowther

Firemen drag a burning mattress from an attic apartment at 47 Grant Ave. Friday evening. Firemen surmised that an unofficial boarder may have caused the fire. The apartment was officially unoccupied.



MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 2, 1968.

## Quick Action Stops Jackson Avenue Blaze

Fire broke out in the recently vacated cellar of a two-family, two-story wood house at 29 Jackson Ave. Sunday, but city firemen extinguished the blaze before it could spread.

Nevertheless, firemen estimated the damage from fire and smoke at a minimum of \$3,000 to \$4,000. The fire occurred in the unoccupied half of a house owned by Joseph Ragosta.

Assistant Chief James Rice said the fire started either in a pile of rubbish at the foot of the cellar stairs or in a bank of circuit breakers. The wiring around the circuit breakers was ruined and the cellar ceiling above the rubbish pile was heavily charred, Rice said. Firemen had to force the front and back doors to gain entrance to the building.

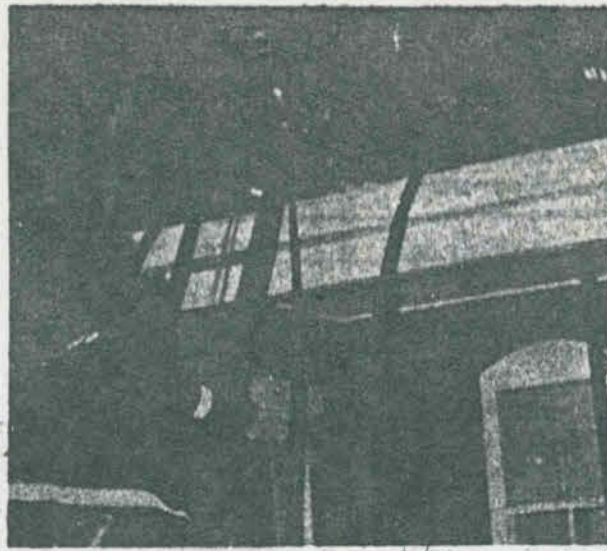
Smoke filled the vacated half of the house and also seeped into the occupied section. Rice said the apartment where the fire occurred had been occupied by Osmya Kinney, who had moved out earlier in the evening.

"Another 10 minutes and we would have had trouble," Rice commented. As it happened, the fire was confined to the cellar.

The fire was reported by a neighbor about 8:30 p.m. Firemen were at the scene nearly an hour.

### FIREMEN ARE CALLED OUT

City firemen were roused out of bed early Thursday morning by a false alarm which sent two engines to 26 Washington St. at 5:25 a.m. A flooded oil-burner sent firemen to the home of Mrs. Beatrice P. Bostrom at 133 Library Ave. at 4:20 p.m. Thursday. The oil line was cleared before a fire could break out.



Firemen scale roof of two-story brick house at 160 S. Main St. early Friday. Severe blaze gutted second story of Green Mountain Rental building, and apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Earle Gilbert. Gilberts were away at the time, but their pet Boxer dog was suffocated. General alarm was sounded before fire was under control about 1 a.m.

DECEMBER 28, 1968.

## Fire Started By Chimney, Officials Say

A defective chimney was ruled the cause of a general alarm fire which swept through a two-story brick building at 160 S. Main St. early Friday morning. No injuries were reported.

Chief Alfred J. Koltonski said that the fire apparently started in the cellar of the building and worked its way up the wooden partition before mushrooming into flames in the second story apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Earle Gilbert.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert were not in the apartment at the time of the fire. Only their pet boxer was reported to have been in the building. The boxer was overcome by smoke but was revived by city firemen.

Several rooms of the building, which was occupied by the Gilberts and the Green Mountain Realty, were either gutted by the flames or severely damaged by water and smoke.

City firemen fought the blaze in temperatures that ranged to 19 degrees below zero.

Earle Thompson, owner of the building, said Friday that it was covered by insurance.

He said that he did not know the amount of damage to the building.



